Opposition senators 'rescue' GMA accuser

Story Below, Column 1

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Kiwis say no to Santa's 'ho ho ho'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—In a terrorized world, even the Christian Christmas' most beloved figure, next only to the Infant Jesus, is being told to

KIWIS/ A5

US Marines land in Afghanistan

KABUL—Striking at the last center of Taliban power, hundreds of US Marines have landed outside the southern city of Kandahar and set up a desert air base, an American commander said yesterday.

An American soldier, however, was reported killed by captured foreign fighters of Osama bin Laden on Sunday when they staged a bloody uprising in a mud-walled prison fortress near the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

A Northern Alliance commander said at least 300 Arab, Chechen and Pakistani prisoners were killed by US air strikes and anti-Taliban ground troops. A few resisters, however, were still holed up inside the fortress.

"The Marines have landed and we now own a piece of Afghanistan," Gen. James Mattis, commander of the attack task force, said aboard the assault ship USS Peleliu in the Arabian Sea.

"Everything went without a hitch," Mattis said, adding more than a thousand Marines would be within striking distance of Kandahar within 48 hours.

Ferried in by helicopter under cover of darkness on Sunday, the first batch of Marines seized the once desert airstrip that was built by a wealthy Arab to reach his hunting lodge. They met no resistance.

After securing the airfield, troops set up landing lights so fixed-wing transport aircraft could land with more troops and supplies, Mattis said.

The American landing in Afghanistan, designated Operation Swift Freedom, was launched from the USS Peleliu in the northern Arabian Sea and from land bases on the coast whose location

US MARINES/ A16

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

THE FINAL assault: Hundreds of US Marines land in Afghanistan near the last major Taliban stronghold of Kandahar to set up an air base. More troops are expected to follow in the next few days.

US hostage: Have mercy

US firm clones human embryo

WASHINGTON—A Massachusetts-based biotechnology company on Sunday announced it had cloned the first human embryo—an unborn child in the early stage of development.

Advanced Cell Technology Inc. (ACT) said the breakthrough was aimed not at creating a human being but at mining the embryo for stem cells for use in treating diseases.

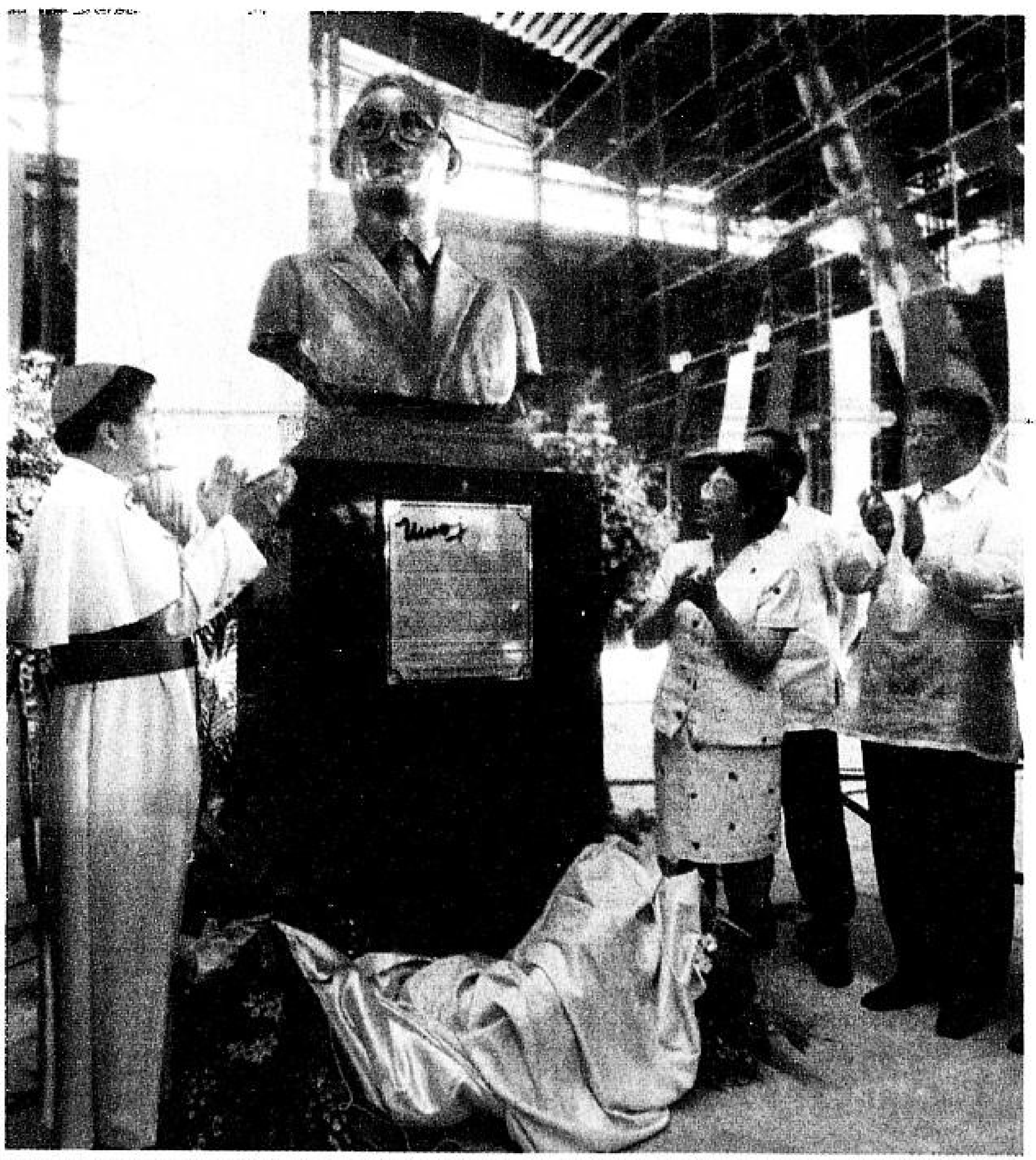
"Our intention is not to create cloned human beings, but rather to make lifesaving therapies for a wide range of human disease conditions, including diabetes, strokes, cancer, AIDS and neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Robert Lanza, an ACT vice president.

But groups traditionally opposed to abortion and embryo experimentation were quick to condemn the research.

"Human reproduction is now in the hands of men, when it rightfully belongs in the hands of God," said Raymond Flynn, president of the National Catholic Alliance and a former US ambassador to the Vatican.

ACT scientists cloned a human embryo using a human skin cell and an egg from an unrelated

US FIRM/ A17



BIGGER THAN LIFE: On what would have been his 69th birthday today, a giant bronze bust of the martyred hero, Ninoy Aquino, is blessed by Bishop Soc Villegas and unveiled on Monday by his widow, former President Cory Aquino at the NAIA 3 terminal now under construction. Noynoy Aquino (partly hidden) and Senate President Frank Drilon are also in photo. Ross Arcilla executed the monument commissioned by Piatco. *(Story on Page A4.)*

Burnhams say gov't rescue not working

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

AMERICAN hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham are pining for their children and dying to go home.

"Have mercy," Gracia said in an exclusive interview Sunday with Net-25, airing an appeal to any government, any person in authority—anyone—to help negotiate for their release the soonest possible time.

"We know that the Philippine government is doing everything to rescue us," Martin added. "I don't want to sound disrespectful, but it's not working."

Gracia, wearing a white lace veil, was constantly weeping. Like her, Martin has been weakened by the ordeal. And yet the last of the hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf from the Palawan resort of Dos Palmas on May 27 were a picture of a loving couple.

"We always look at each other and I tell Martin, 'I want you to know that I love you before I die,'" Gracia said.

In this forested area in Basilan, the missionary couple spoke of their longing for their three children aged 10, 12 and 14, who are now back in their native Wichita, Kansas.

"I wish I could tell my children that I am OK," Gracia said. "But I am not, and that is the reality."

"My parents, I know, and my brothers and sisters—they are in Kansas—are surrounding my children with love," Martin said. "But there's no substitute for parents, and we would like to be there."

Gracia offered me a share of the soda crackers with peanut butter that she was having for breakfast that day.

"Please take it," she said. "We appreciate your presence here. We want our family to see us and also our Christian friends. We need their help. Anyone who can solve this crisis, we would appreciate very much."

US HOSTAGE/ A16

Malaysia gets RP proof of Nur's link to Sipadan kidnaps

By Norman Bordadora, Martin P. Marfil and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE government has furnished Malaysia with evidence confirming Nur Misuari's ties to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and his group's involvement in the abduction last year of 21 mostly foreign tourists from a Malaysian diving resort.

"There are new pieces of evidence that show Misuari's alleged part in the Abu Sayyaf's attack on Sipadan Island. The Malaysian police have been furnished copies of the evidence," Foreign Affairs undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said in a press briefing yesterday.

Manila's ambassador to Kuala Lumpur, Jose Brillantes, said Malaysian authorities had already launched an investigation of Misuari's alleged role in the raid on Sipadan Island.

The Department of Justice is also investigating the links between Misuari and Abu Sayyaf, according to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Ebdalin did not mention the extent of Misuari's involvement in the Abu Sayyaf but a military report released to the media yesterday said the bandit group was nothing more

MALAYSIA/ A5

ARMM POLLS

Comelec 'war' is the bigger story

By Blanche S. Rivera and PDI Mindanao Bureau

ON TOP of security threats and allegations of poll frauds, the deepening hostilities among top officials of the Commission on Elections nearly marred yesterday's holding of elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Voting was generally peaceful, contrary to expectations of widespread violence, military officials said. Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo placed voter turnout at 80 to 90 percent of the 1.1 million registered voters.

The ARMM covers the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan, and the city of Marawi. Voters are electing a governor, vice governor, three district representatives for each of the eight legislative districts of the 24-seat regional assembly.

The results of balloting in the region are usually known in at least five days. The Comelec will announce the winners in Manila, officials said.

In some parts of Lanao del Sur and Sulu, the elections started late as some members of the Board of Election Inspectors refused to re-

COMELEC/ A16

Senators 'rescue' Gloria accuser

By Rocky Nazareno, Blanche S. Rivera and Cynthia Balana

THE MAN at the center of the telecommunications clearinghouse scandal finally went to the Senate yesterday, only to find a mission order from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation waiting for him.

BID agents were prevented from leaving with Pacifico U. Marcelo only after several opposition senators rushed to the Senate press office where the controversial businessman was holding a news conference.

"You can be charged with obstructing a Senate investigation," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told BID Deputy Commissioner Orlando Dizon. Also at the press office were senators Gregorio Honasan, Vicente Sotto, Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Panfilo Lacson. Marcelo is the majority stockholder of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network, whose legislative franchises were vetoed by President Macapagal-Arroyo early this year. Yesterday, Marcelo alleged that Ms Macapagal wanted majority control of the clearinghouse herself.

The mission order, signed on Nov. 23 by Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, instructed Dizon to verify the admission status of Marcelo. It ordered Dizon to effect the immediate arrest of Marcelo, if he was found to have violated the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940.

Sotto said that it was alarming that Dizon and four BID agents had come to effect the arrest order just as the Senate probe was being held.

"(We should prevent this from happening again), or else no one

SENATORS/ A16

MARCELO: They left me with no choice.

Marcelo: 'I can take entire Macapagal government down'

By Carlito Pablo

WHO is this man, Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo III, and how dare he say all those things about the President of this country?

Tall, trim and self-possessed, Marcelo,57, displayed no trace of tension in a man who is taking on the presidency itself.

"I can take this entire house down," Marcelo said in a soft, even voice when he sat down for

MARCELO/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

SOBRA NAMAN!

Chavit charged with graft

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the man whose explosive revelations about illegal gambling payoffs brought down ex-President Joseph Estrada, has again been charged with graft before the Ombudsman.

This time, the charges concern the purchase by the Ilocos Sur provincial government of an allegedly overpriced parcel of land at a cost of P26 million in 1998. Singson dismissed the allegation as a "fishing expedition" by his detractors.

The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa), which filed the graft complaint yesterday, said the lot was classified as agricultural land and actually cost only P2.1 million.

The transaction was overpriced by P23 million, it said.

Sisa, represented by Nestor Segismundo, David Roca and Arajal Ilustre, asked the Ombudsman to charge Singson under the Anti-Graft Law which penalizes officials for directly or indirectly benefiting from any contract or transaction involving the government.

The complaint said Singson, on behalf of the provincial government, bought from Juanito Perinion a 26,693-sq. m. lot in the villages of Mabilbila, Labut and Pasungol in Santa town for P26 million in 1998.

The lot is now the site of the Ilocos Sur tomato paste plant, one of the projects being questioned by Singson's critics as it was registered as a private corporation.

Sisa alleged that Perinion was an employee of Solid North Broadcasting System, a radio station owned and operated by Singson and managed by his son, board member Ronald Singson.

The land bought by the provincial government was assessed at P2,153,440 and was covered only by a tax declaration. It was not registered under Perinion, Sisa said.

Dummy

Lawyer Estelita Cordero, the counsel for Sisa, claimed that Singson actually owned the lot and only used Perinion as his dummy.

Singson has denied this.

Only last week, Sisa filed graft charges against Singson and five Ilocos Sur provincial government officials in connection with the alleged "ghost" purchase of a backhoe loader worth P9.5 million last year.

The complainants asked that Singson and the five officials be charged under the Anti-Graft Law for allegedly giving unwarranted advantage to the supplier, the Compressed Air Machineries and Equipment Corp. (Camec).

According to the complaint, the backhoe was never delivered and no attempt was made to ask Camec to replace, repair or reimburse the Ilocos Sur government for the cost of the backhoe.

"We continue to file our complaints against Mr. Singson and company because the magnitude of the corruption committed was so great and had caused severe deprivation and misery to the people of Ilocos Sur," said David Roca, the Sisa secretary general.

From Vigan, Singson yesterday dismissed the most recent complaint filed by Sisa.

Fishing expiditon

"Like the first complaint that they filed, they are on a fishing expedition to destroy and discredit me," he said in Ilocano.

"These people are just being used by my detractors," he said.

In a statement faxed to the Inquirer, Singson yesterday said he was preparing criminal charges against the complainants.

"We also intend to file a suit for moral and exemplary damages against them. Malicious prosecution should not be tolerated in our society," he said in his statement.

Singson said there were many "fabricated" documents and papers being fed the media to "discredit and malign" his integrity.

He said the first complaint involving the alleged "ghost" purchase of the backhoe loader turned out to be "maliciously fabricated."

The Sisa officials said they feared for their safety after they filed the charges against Singson.

"We know the character of our enemy who establishes a reputation of being a warlord. By doing what we did, we know that our days are numbered," said Segismundo, the Sisa president.

Singson retorted: "They are afraid because they will surely face the consequences of what they have done to destroy my reputation. I will be filing appropriate charges against them."

Estrada trial takes backseat

By Volt Contreras

EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan was postponed yet again yesterday.

But this time, the postponement came with the concurrence of both the prosecution and defense panels, who had lost the "mood" to conduct an adversarial hearing.

Blame it on Sandiganbayan Third Division chair Justice Anacleto Badoy who, after banging the opening gavel, announced the retirement of Justice Ricardo Ilarde, one of the three magistrates in the division.

Ilarde turns 70 today and yesterday was his last working day after 43 years in the judiciary.

Both the prosecution and the defense panels agreed to cut the hearing short in deference to the occasion.

The afternoon hearing, which started an hour late, opened instead with Badoy asking the court audience to give Ilarde a round of applause. Then he asked them to remain standing for a minute of silence.

The minute of silence will appear in court records as a "standing ovation'' for Ilarde, Badoy said.

This was followed by short tributes to Ilarde delivered by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for the prosecution, and Jose Flaminiano for the defense.

Less than 20 minutes after the hearing began, defense lawyer Rene Saguisag moved for an early adjournment, saying "we may no longer be in the mood'' for the trial.

The plunder trial against Estrada, his son Jinggoy and his lawyer Edward Serapio opened in October and has been marked by confrontations among the prosecution, defense and the justices.

What's the catch? solon asks Gloria

HOUSE Minority Leader Carlos Padilla yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reveal the terms of the $4.6 billion economic and military assistance she got from her working visit to the United States last week.

"Is it a free meal or a new kind of a US 'five-six' scheme for the Philippines which would lead to giving more fat to our more than $40 billion foreign debt?" Padilla said in a statement.

"President Arroyo should explain to the Filipino people as soon as possible the costs and benefits accruing from the $4.6 billion worth of economic and military package relative to the (Mutual Logistics Support Agreement)," Padilla said.

Padilla asked the President to reveal the terms of the proposed MLSA, which would reportedly amount to allowing the US use of its former bases in Subic and Clark.

Padilla cautioned the President against entering a new military agreement, which would lead to the de facto return of the US military bases in the country.

Padilla reminded the Chief Executive that long-term basing facilities in the country have been repudiated under the 1987 Constitution and the 1991 termination of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement.

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NBI asks for Nida Blanca file

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation formally asked the Philippine National Police yesterday to turn over its evidence in the Nida Blanca murder case.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the police have been asked to turn over the bloodstained shirt and paring knife of flip-flopping confessed killer Philip Medel Jr., the statements of witnesses and other evidence in the case.

Wycoco said the results of the polygraph and neuro-psychiatrist tests on Medel, as well as the medical report on his alleged torture at the hands of the police, will be released as soon as possible.

"The medical examination is still ongoing. We want to find out if he should also undergo a drug test," Wycoco added.

Also yesterday, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and National Police Commission (Napolcom) vice chair Rogelio Pureza went to the NBI to get Medel's formal statement on his alleged abduction and torture by police investigators.

Pureza said the Napolcom will compare Medel's statement with the accounts of the policemen who were investigating him.

"There has to be a formal charge (from Medel). He should tell us when, how and where (he was tortured)," said Lina, adding that this was the "preliminary step" before a formal investigation could be started.

Lina said that if the evidence warrants it, the erring policemen will be fired from the service and charged criminally in court.

Wycoco has named lawyer Ricardo Diaz, head of the NBI's Interpol division, as the official spokesperson for the investigation.

He added that an ex-soldier, Meliton Vizcaya, who had claimed that two women had tried to hire him to kill an actress named Nida, was already undergoing interrogation at the NBI.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday Blanca's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, remains a suspect in the case, even after Medel recanted his confession linking Strunk to the crime.

Perez said the preliminary investigation of Strunk is continuing while the Department of Justice waits for more evidence from the PNP's Task Force Marsha and the NBI.

"His (Strunk's) lawyer has asked us to dismiss the case, but the preliminary investigation is still ongoing and we are still waiting for additional evidence against him," Perez said at the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel.

"If nothing comes up, then the case will be submitted for resolution," he said.

Asked what he thought of Strunk's demeanor after the death of his wife, Perez related his first encounter with Strunk when he and PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza went to offer him their condolences.

"We went to Camp Crame (where Blanca's body was being autopsied) and there we offered him our condolences. When General Mendoza asked him to recount what happened the night before, Strunk said he would not talk to us without the presence of a lawyer," Perez said.

While it might have been Strunk's foreign culture that made him react that way, Perez said, he and Mendoza were still surprised at the defensive remark. *With TJ Burgonio*

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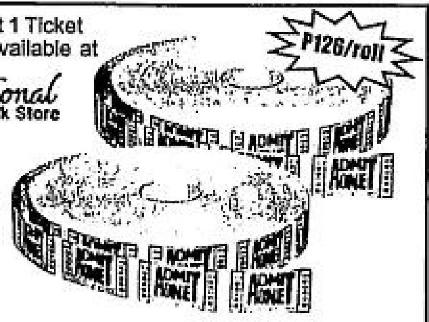
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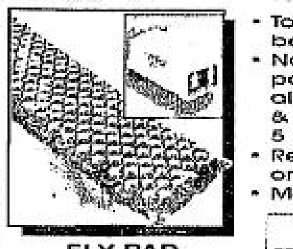
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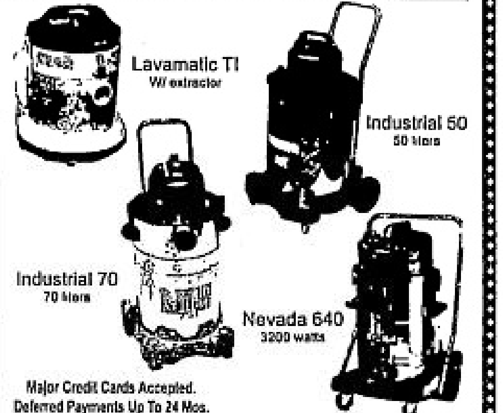
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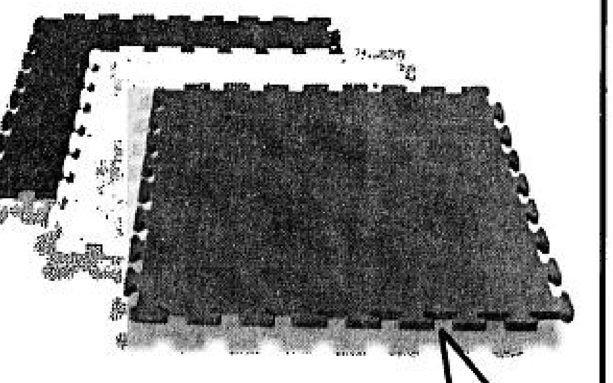
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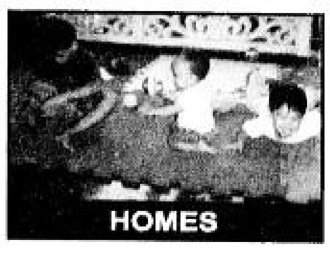
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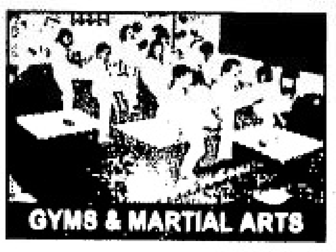
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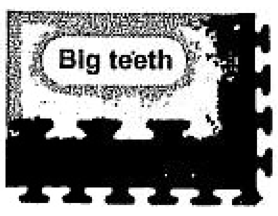

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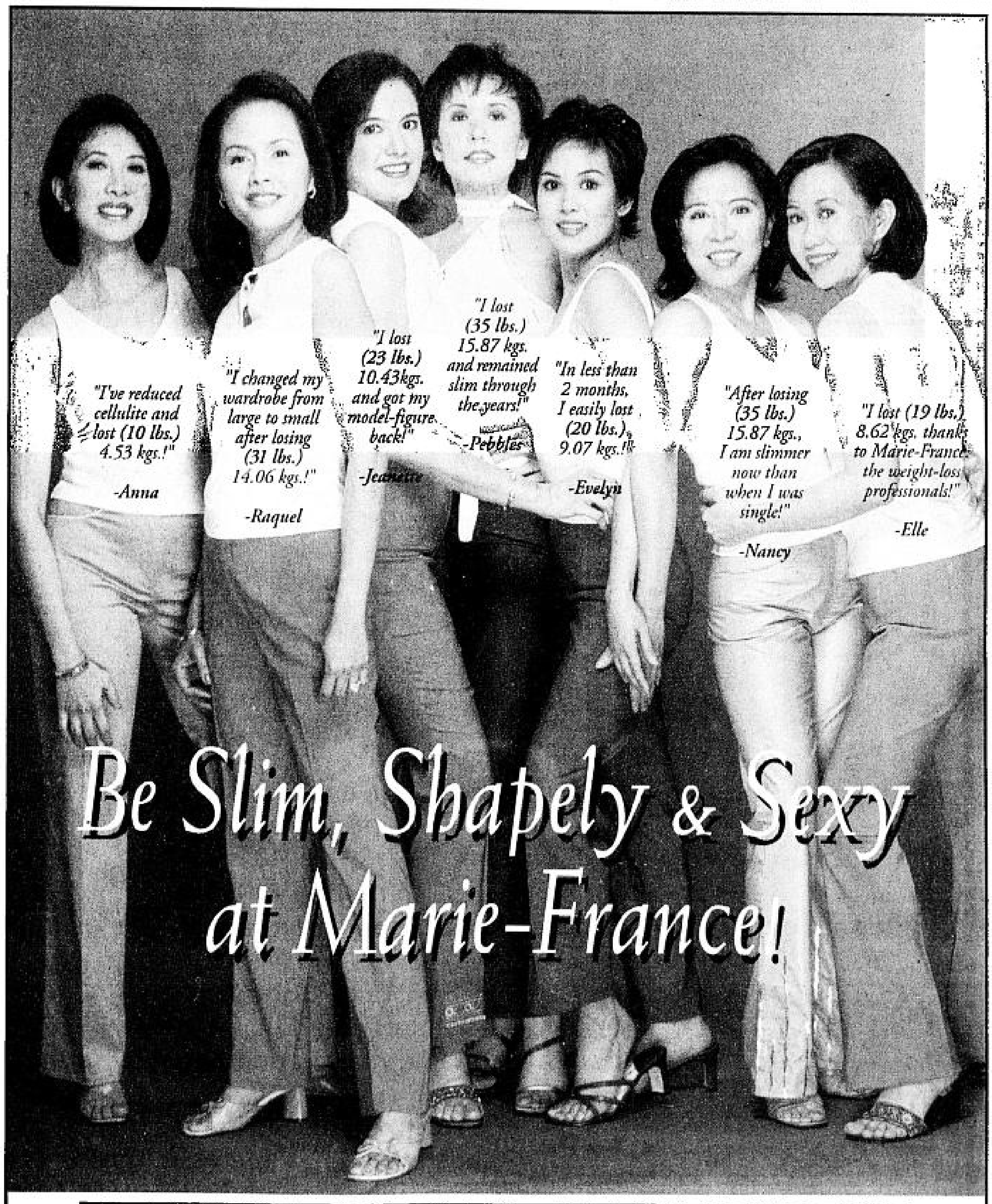
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BBDO/Guerrero Ortega dominates ad awards

FOLLOWING its recent win in the 4As Agency of the Year Awards as Best in Creative, BBDO Guerrero Ortega dominated the Ad Congress Araw Awards Competition held in Cebu City on Saturday.

The creative hotshop hauled in 17 golds, 12 silvers and 68 bronzes across 19 brands—Pepsi, Baygon, Canesten, FedEx, Pizza Hut, Argentina, Adidas, Bayer Aspirin, Dimensione, Bench, Unitel, Microsoft, UnTV, Bayfresh, Starbust, WWF, Aetna, Iconos and BBDO/GO.

"We aspire to deliver an outstanding creative product with all our assignments—whether it be a regional brief for Visa or FedEx, or a local brief for a simple collateral material," said David Guerrero, chair and executive creative director of BBDO Guerrero Ortega. He is also concurrently the BBDO Asia/Pacific regional creative director on Visa International and FedEx.

BBDO Guerrero Ortega's client, Bayer Philippines, was also a big winner in the Araw Awards Competition as it bagged the Advertiser of the Year Award. It won 5 golds, 5 silvers and 22 bronzes for Canesten, Baygon, Bayer Aspirin and Bayfresh.

Ninoy Aquino bust unveiled at Naia 3

By N.Bordadora

"IT'S good to know that he has yet to be forgotten," said former President Corazon Aquino as she unveiled yesterday another monument to her martyred husband, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., at the international airport that bears his name.

The former President celebrated the late senator's birthday a day early, joining top government officials in unveiling a giant bronze bust of Aquino at the site of new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"This is a fitting tribute to Ninoy. There could not have been a better time for this than on the occasion of his birthday," said Mrs. Aquino, who wore her signature yellow dress.

The martyred Aquino would have turned 69 today. He was killed upon his return from his US exile on Aug. 21, 1983.

His assassination, which was blamed on people close to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, signaled the fall of the Marcos regime as protests and civil unrest accelerated after his death.

"This is a fitting place for his monument because this is where he offered his life. Ninoy loved life but he also taught us the meaning of courage and the willingness to sacrifice," Mrs. Aquino said.

The ex-president was joined at the unveiling by her son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III.

The new Aquino monument, executed by Bicolano sculptor Ross Arcilla, was commissioned by Piatco, the private consortium that is building and will be operating the new Naia Terminal 3.

Arcilla, who considered Aquino his hero, said he has been waiting to do something to keep his memory and ideals alive in the hearts of Filipinos.

The bust was unveiled at its temporary berth at the departure hall of the terminal that is still under construction. It will have its permanent place in front of the mammoth facility that is to be completed in November 2002.

This is the first time that a monument to Aquino has been erected in the airport where he met his martyrdom.

The Manila International Airport only has a marker commemorating his death, placed there when the airport was renamed the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Aug. 17, 1987.

Other government officials who were at the unveiling ceremonies were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and Naia general manager Edgardo Manda.

Also present was Piatco president Vic Cheng Yong.

Angara seeks probe of police academy

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Edgardo Angara yesterday pushed for a Senate investigation of the state of affairs at the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) due to complaints that it has not been serving its purpose of producing good officers who will handle the country's internal security needs.

In filing a resolution calling for an inquiry, Angara said that there was a need to look deeper into the administration and curriculum of the PNPA, the premier state-run school for police officers in the country.

Angara filed the resolution after 35 of the 204 cadets of the PNPA walked out of the school alleging that :

- The academic rights of the cadets are being wantonly violated.
- The arbitrary change in the entrance requirements that allowed the unqualified to enter the academy.
- Forced return-service requirement of expenses incurred by cadets who have left the academy without finishing their courses.
- Sub-standard physical and trading facilities.

The senator said that the curriculum of the PNPA was patterned after that of the Philippine Military Academy, which was not ideal since the police was civilian in character.

"Is the PNPA leadership running the academy in consonance with its charter? Or are we turning out officers not prepared for the internal security needs of the country? These are two questions central to the inquiry," said Angara.

The PNPA was established in 1977 to train officers for the national police force.

One of the cadets, Cpl 3Cl Herbert Baliguat Nacional wrote Senior Supt. Alejandro Maninang Gutierrez, PNPA director, to justify the walkout of cadets on the dawn of Nov. 9.

He said the cadets felt that the problems that beset them could no longer be addressed inside the four walls of the academy, thus, they decided to leave.

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Malaysia gets RP proof of Nur's link to Sipadan kidnaps

(From page A1)

than a "special operations unit" of Misuari.

Even as Misuari served as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, his followers had "undertaken joint activities including kidnapping operations" with the Abu Sayyaf, the report said.

The military said former members of Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) took part in the abduction last year of 21 mostly foreign tourists from the Malaysian diving resort in Sipadan.

Intelligence reports indicate that two top aides of Misuari provided speedboats that the Abu Sayyaf used in taking their captives across the sea border, the report said.

MNLF speedboats

"Hadji Mami Sangkula, a former MNLF commander and trusted man of Misuari, was identified as one of those who spearheaded the (Sipadan) kidnapping, using his speedboat as a get-away vessel," the report said.

"Another speedboat owned by then MNLF member Quirino Jahandal was (also) used."

The military report said MNLF strongholds on Jolo Island had sheltered the Abu Sayyaf and their captives for months until most were ransomed off reputedly for millions of dollars. Misuari and his men are believed to have received a share of the money, according to the report.

The report said the Abu Sayyaf slipped out of a military dragnet in May 2000 by passing through old MNLF camps in Barangays Bandang and Samak in Talipao, Sulu.

This year, MNLF fighters led by Commanders Wahid Abubakar and Sali Adjar provided support for the Abu Sayyaf when they fought government troops in several encounters in Patikul, Sulu, the report said.

Training Abu Sayyaf recruits

Misuari forces were also monitored training newly recruited members of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, where the gunmen are still holding American missionary couple Martin and Garcia Burnham and a Filipina nurse.

"It is believed that the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) is a secret special operations unit over which Misuari exercises varying degrees of clandestine control," the report said.

The Abu Sayyaf is "organizationally linked" with MNLF forces identified with Misuari and "their tie-up is most pronounced at the tactical level."

About 600 members of Misuari's forces, backed by Abu Sayyaf gunmen, last week attacked several military posts in Jolo, leaving at least 113 people dead.

The renegade Muslim leader then went into hiding but was arrested Saturday for illegally entering Malaysia.

The report said that among the Abu Sayyaf leaders who participated in the Nov. 19 attacks were Commanders Radulan Sahiron, Tahir Sali and Idjan Ablayan.

Those involved in the planning and execution of the attacks were identified as Kahild Ajibon, ousted MNLF chair for Sulu; Abdurahman Jamasali, interior undersecretary for ARMM; Dr. Abdurahman Amin, executive secretary, ARMM; Ibrahim Omar, ousted MNLF informatiion chief; Mahindra Madjilon, former information director, ARMM; Julhambrie Misuari, security chief of Misuari; Ustadz Kabir Mallik, head of reconciliation committee; Absalom Cerveza; Randolf Parcasio; and Talib Congo.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, military spokesperson, defended the military's earlier decision not make public Misuari's ties to the Abu Sayyaf, saying that it was merely trying to protect the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and the government.

While stressing that the law must take its course, President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sunday said that she preferred that Misuari be investigated while in a Malaysian jail for violating their own laws before he could be brought back to Manila to face rebellion charges.

Malaysian Home Affairs press secretary Rohaizad Abdul Rahman yesterday said Manila had requested Kuala Lumpur to complete its investigation of Misuari first before he could be deported to the Philippines.

"At this point in time, the move is on for deportation as this is a Philippine internal issue," Rohaizad said. "However, because Misuari has broken local laws, the Philippine government has requested us to look into the matter first."

Long sentence

Misuari could spend a long time in a Malaysian jail and might get back into the country only after Ms Macapagal had a finished her term, according to Justice Secretary Perez.

"He would be tried and sentenced. He would only be deported after serving his sentence," Perez said in the weekly Kapihan at the Manila Hotel.

"If the cases against him included violation of Malaysia's immigration laws, he can be deported to the country immediately. But if it included cases involving Malaysia's national security, he could spend a long time there," Perez said.

"There was also a time when Misuari visited Malaysia and had a talk with the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. This reportedly got the ire of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad," Perez said.

Even Misuari's ardent supporter, Speaker Jose de Venecia, wants Misuari to answer for the rebellion charges.

"He has himself to blame. He must follow the law because nobody is above the law," said De Venecia who had offered to talk to Misuari before his arrest in Malaysia.

First dividend

De Venecia, who helped craft the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF, hailed Misuari's arrest as the "first dividend" of the anti-terrorist alliance among Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

De Venecia said he regretted his role in bringing Misuari to the peace table that led to the 1996 agreement.

He noted that Misuari had his place in history for leading the Muslim movement for autonomy, for which Misuari got a peace award from the United Nations.

"Then all of a sudden just because he cannot get his way, he launches a new rebellion. That I cannot understand," he said.

De Venecia disclosed that Ms Macapagal had offered every position possible to Misuari.

She offered him an ambassadorial post in Turkey. The President also wanted him as special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Conference, as chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Development and as presidential assistant on Muslim affairs.

But Misuari wanted an indefinite postponement of the elections in the ARMM.

"He was forcing us in the House of Representatives to postpone the elections but how can we do that?" De Venecia said.

He said he had invited Misuari to join the President's trip to the US "to keep him out of trouble in Sulu."

But he said he was unable to get in touch with him. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Juliet L. Javellana and AFP***

Kiwis say . . .

(From page A1)

stop frightening the children.

It seems that Santa Claus's legendary "ho ho ho" frightens children in New Zealand, the land of the Kiwis.

Sian Barber, of Westaff Recruitment, which is finding Santas for shopping malls, told the Dominion newspaper yesterday that Santa's signature greeting was scary.

"We're trying to divert them off going 'ho ho ho'. . . for some children it can seem a bit ferocious," she said.

Instead, in this new, sensitive age, Santas are being taught that talking to children the right way was important, as was the ability to listen, show patience, warmth and understanding.

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"That's important for the children, and for the mall owners because they are big drawcards." ***AFP***

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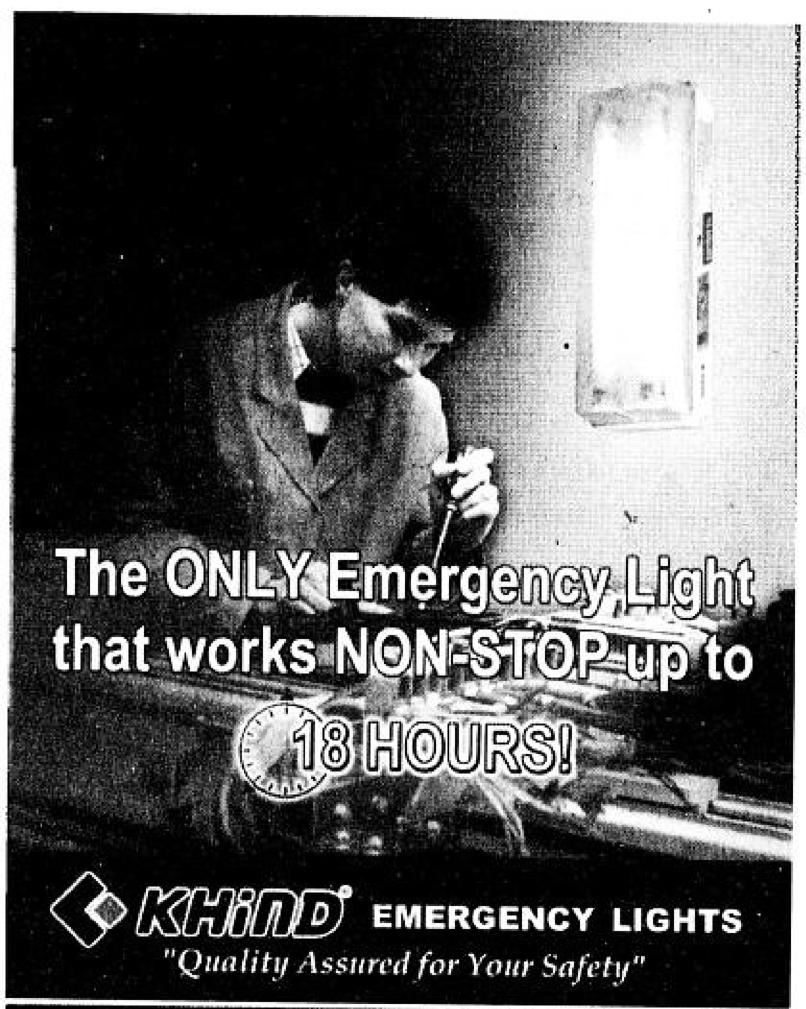

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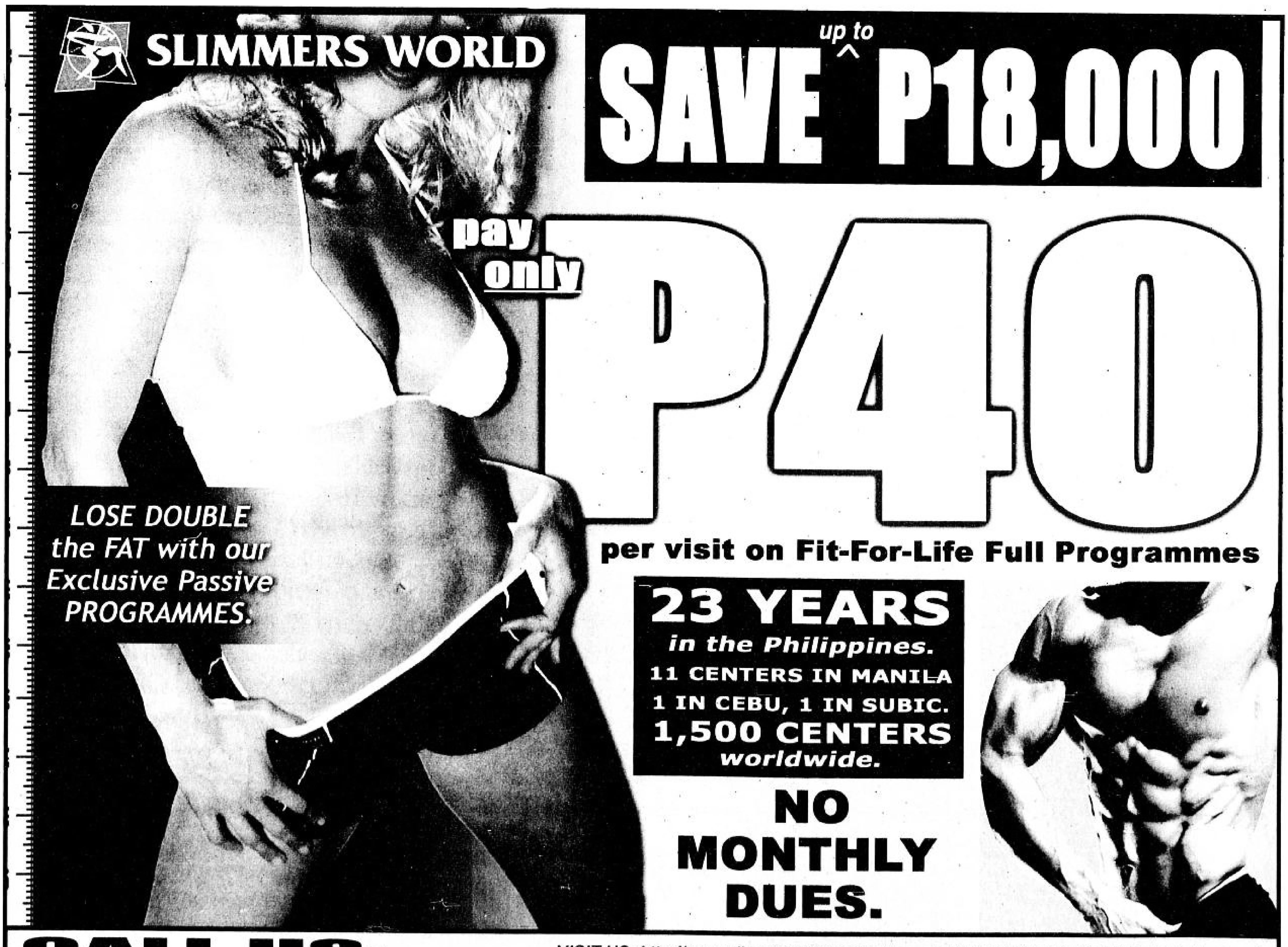

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OPINION

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Squandered opportunities

EDITORIAL

NUR Misuari should have quit while he was ahead—slightly ahead. His aide said that he was not running for reelection after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed another candidate from another Moro National Liberation Front faction for the governorship of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. He didn't want to run? Well and good. But apparently he ordered about 600 MNLF rebels to attack three military camps and a police station in Sulu last Monday to prevent the holding of the election. One hundred fifty people, including 100 rebels, were killed.

Misuari was like a shepherd who led his flock, not to safety, but to the slaughter. The blood of his people are on his hands.

And why did he lead his followers to a massacre? All because of pique. First, because he was dethroned as leader of the MNLF. And second, because another candidate was endorsed by the President. Probably he thought that if he could not retain the governorship of the ARMM, then nobody should get the post. The ARMM election had to be stopped at all costs—even at the cost of so many lives.

The former rebel leader, who scored some victories over the Armed Forces in the past, must have been in such a confused state of mind that he forgot his military tactics. He forgot even to order basic intelligence gathering. He apparently didn't know that this time the military was prepared for him and his men. And what resulted was a rout.

Misuari, elected in 1996 ARMM governor, could have made some difference in Muslim Mindanao. He had a dream for his people. He was going to improve their lives and change the region. But once he won power he forgot about his dream. He became preoccupied more with the perks and privileges of his office. He stayed longer in foreign countries and Manila than in Mindanao. He lived it up in five-star hotels and restaurants and brought along a big contingent of relatives, friends, supporters and bodyguards to enjoy with him all these luxurious amenities at the taxpayers' expense.

He had power and billions of pesos at his disposal. But after his five years in office, no noticeable improvement has taken place in Muslim Mindanao. A former comrade in arms in the MNLF, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, said: "We looked at him as the epitome of hope for the Bangsamoro (Filipino Muslim nation), a redeemer and champion of our cause. But we were wrong."

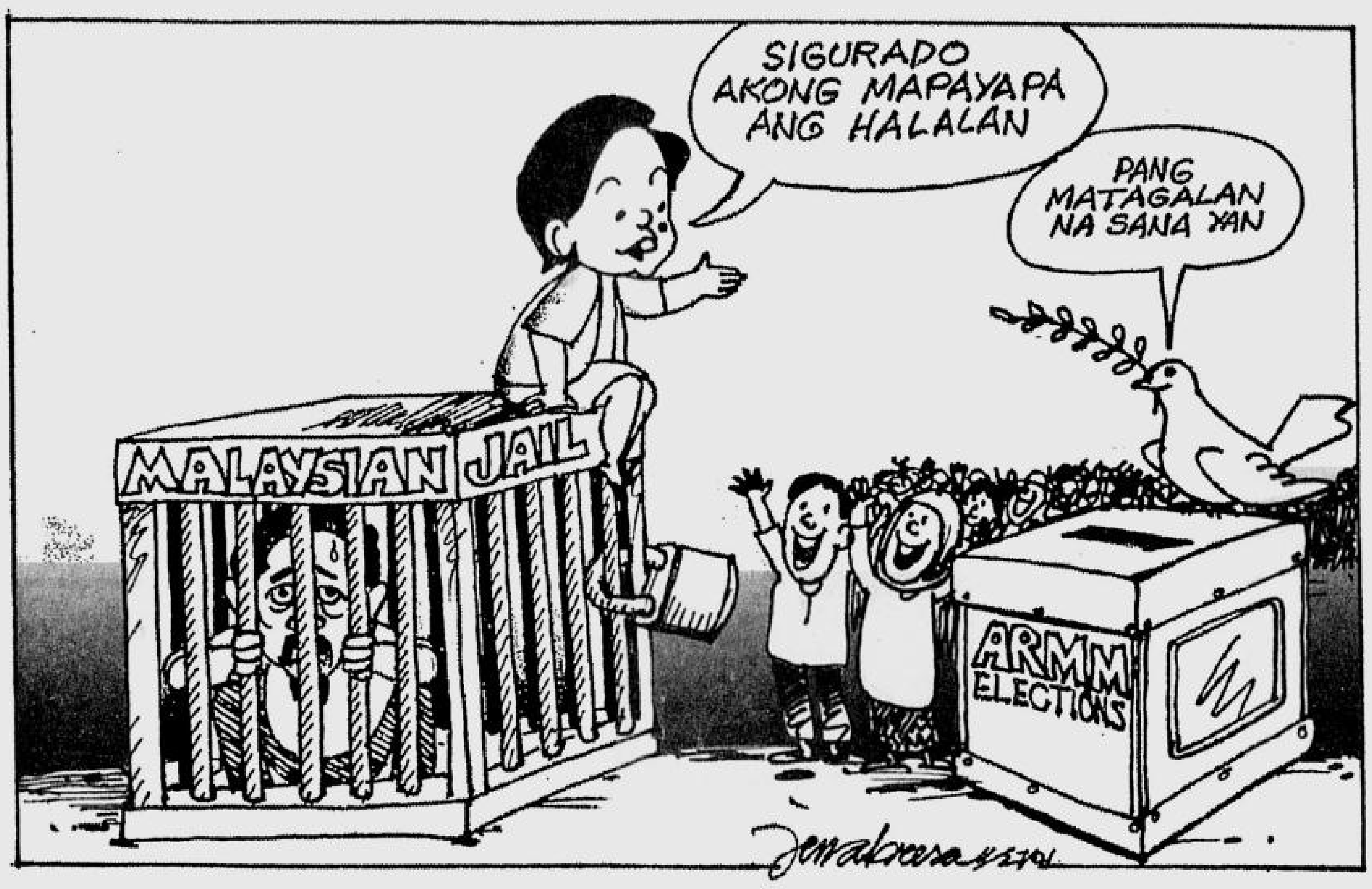
Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad agrees with Salapuddin. Mahathir said that Misuari shirked his responsibilities as ARMM governor and did not do what he was supposed to do as a leader to bring development to the region. "Indeed, he spent more time overseas and in Manila than to bringing progress and development to the people," Mahathir said.

Misuari had the opportunity, the power and the resources to make a difference in the lives of three million people in Muslim Mindanao. But he did not improve their lot.

Was he corrupted by the system? Was the work too much for him? Or did he simply forget his dream, his ideals because of the taste of power and the material benefits of his office? His story tends to show that a good revolutionary does not necessarily make a good administrator.

Now, Misuari is suffering the depths of indignity and humiliation. His forces have suffered a resounding defeat. He fled to Sabah but was captured by the Malaysian police. Eid Kabalu, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson, rubbed it in when he said that Misuari's attempted escape was "stupid" because he knew Malaysia was hostile to him. Misuari's anger and pique over his impending loss of the ARMM governorship must have really clouded his thinking and judgment.

Misuari as a revolutionary showed a lot of promise. But Misuari as an administrator proved to be a disappointment. And now, all these wrong decisions and wrong and wrongful actions. What a waste. A pity.


SIGURADO AKONG MAPAYAPA ANG HALALAN
PANG MATAGALAN NA SANA YAN
MALAYSIAN JAIL
ARMM ELECTIONS
Jerry Alcoreza 11-27-01

Abaya says his piece on 'over-importation' of CFCs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE KOREAN construction group, Hanjin-Konoike, wrote to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo protesting the award of the Batangas Port Project II to the Shimizu-F. F. Cruz joint venture.

I have written about this some time ago, so I am familiar with the issue. Hanjin-Konoike also protested during the terms of President Macapagal's predecessors. That is why the award of the project was delayed for a long time. The PBAC and the Board of Directors of the Philippine Ports authority (PPA), as well as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) which is funding the project, made extensive reviews. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) also made a comprehensive legal review and evaluation and supported the award to Shimizu-F. F. Cruz. Last Oct. 3, 2001, the PPA board affirmed the award.

The issue is quite simple: Shimizu-F. F. Cruz is the lowest bidder; Hanjin-Konoike is only the second lowest bidder. The latter's bid is P90 million higher than the lowest bid. It's not P9,000 or P90,000 or P900,000 or even P9 million. It is P90 million. That's a lot of money. Imagine how many low-cost homes that can build.

Hanjin-Konoike's only chance of winning the award is to have its rival disqualified. And that's what it tried, and is still trying to do. It raised three minor issues against the winner in an effort to make the winning bid "non-complying."

But after a thorough examination, the PPA and the OGCC ruled that the issues raised against the bid of Shimizu-F. F. Cruz were "all too minor and insignificant to materially affect the substance and validity of the bid." Moreover, these deviations were mere "documentary oversight or clerical errors appearing in a few supporting documents which are supposed to provide only supplementary information," the PPA said.

"Thus, it is in the interest of the public that the project be given to the lowest complying bidder, Shimizu-F.F. Cruz, whose bid is most advantageous to the government. These findings have been repeatedly and explicitly expressed in several legal opinions and evaluations," the PPA said.

The letter of Hanjin-Konoike to Malacañang is its last desperate effort to get the project for itself.

* * *

By the way, considering the great amounts of cement needed for government infrastructure projects, the government itself should import the lower-priced cement minus the tariff imposed recently by the Department of Trade and Industry. The difference in the prices of local and imported cement is at least P10 per 40-kg bag. Since government projects will need tens of millions of bags of cement, the higher-priced local cement will mean billions of pesos in additional cost to the government. What the government will collect from the increased tariff will just go to the higher-priced cement and make the foreign-owned cement cartel very rich.

If the National Food Authority is allowed to import cheap rice and the DTI is allowed to import cheap drugs from India for the benefit of Filipino consumers, why can't the Department of Public Works and Highways be allowed to import cement for its own projects? In fact, I don't understand why Trade Secretary Mar Roxas has a policy on cement that is different from his policy on drugs.

As an alternative, the DPWH may buy local cement, but at the price of imported cement, minus the tariff imposed recently. Thus, the local cement cartel will still be able to corner the Philippine market, although at a smaller profit. After all, it is exporting its cement at very low prices (it is called "dumping") and getting back its losses from Filipino consumers. The foreign-owned cement cartel repays the hospitality of Filipinos by overcharging them for the cement mined and processed in the Philippines by Filipino workers. So why can't the cartel charge Filipinos the same price as the one it charges foreign markets? Thus, the cartel will still sell the same amount of cement without spending for the shipping costs. And help its Filipino hosts at the same time.

There's nothing to prevent the cartel from doing that—except one vice: greed!

* * *

Peter A. Abaya, the ousted director of the Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, against whom Secretary Heherson Alvarez has filed administrative charges for over-importing the banned "ozone depleting substances," wrote to comment on a column I wrote some time ago about his case.

He explained that while it appears on paper that he allowed the importation of CFCs that was 75 percent more than the previous year, this is not the correct picture. He said Philippine companies are actually over-importing CFCs through smuggling. Thus, while it appears on paper that the importation is only so much, the amount brought in is actually much more.

What he did, he said, was merely to legitimize the smuggling by including them in the legal imports so that the annual reduction mandated by the Montreal Protocol would be more accurately monitored. As EMB director, he has the authority to do this, he said.

Wrong plea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ILOCOS Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas pleads with the public: "If I had any fault, please forgive me. But please don't feast on my wife. Make me the subject of your anger and vengeance but not my wife or my children. They have nothing to do with my public life, and you have nothing to do with my private life."

One is tempted to say immediately that his plea is completely superfluous. Who in God's name is feasting on his wife? Who in God's name is making his wife or his children the object of their anger and vengeance? We do not bear his wife ill will. All our sympathies are with her, notwithstanding that she wavered at the last minute and turned her back last year on a women's group that might have saved her from her tragedy.

We do not bear his children ill will. All our sympathies are with them. Maria Teresa Carlson's death deprived them of a mother who clearly loved them deeply to endure torture for years just so she could be with them.

It is not the public, or the press, that has no business dragging his family along with him. Fariñas has no business dragging his family along with him. He alone is the subject of the press' and the public's scorn and denunciation. He alone deserves those.

But Fariñas' plea is not superfluous in two respects. First, in the part where he asks the public to forgive him if he is at fault. And second, when he asks the public to keep off his private life. These propositions are not superfluous, these are outrageous.

Before forgiveness, there is contrition. Before pardon, there is punishment. The public will find it so much easier to forgive him if he would not appear before it drinking champagne while his wife lies on a cold slab in a morgue, a victim seemingly of her own hand. The public would find it so much easier to forgive him if it were to see him being led in handcuffs to the Bilibid, there to share the miserable company of Romeo Jalosjos and kindred spirits, for wielding the invisible hand that pushed his wife to her death. What pushed Carlson off the edge of a building was being pushed out of her mind first. If Fariñas had been with her that morning and physically wrought her destruction, he could not be more guilty.

But your heart goes out to the poor woman. I've always thought Carlson's plight was not unlike the one endured by our maids in strange lands, women who are constantly threatened with rape and bodily harm by their masters, if not actually visited by them. A relentless barrage of physical and mental torture that puts them on the verge of breakdown, or, worse, brings them home in a box. Those are the people who cry out for help to our embassies, but who end up being scorned or turned away by officials who are powerless, or unwilling, to lift their oppression. Some of them eventually do what Carlson herself did, which is to hurl themselves from the top of high-rise apartments from having nowhere to turn to.

The only difference is that Carlson did not live in a strange land, she lived right in her own country. She lived among her own people, she lived with her own family. Yet for all that, she might as well have been living among a people who spoke a different language, with a world that swirled around her as dizzyingly as a desert storm. I do not know which fate is the more bitter, being locked up in a silent room in the heart of nowhere with no one to hear your sobs at night, or being locked up in the sunlit pit of home with no one to hear your cries in the daytime. So near help and yet so far from it—that is a furiously maddening thing. Enough to send someone over the edge, in more ways than one.

Which brings me to Fariñas' plea to leave his private affairs well enough alone. Ah, but that is the final refuge of scoundrels, the invocation of a private domain the outside world may presumably not intrude upon. Well, the private domain ends where crime begins. And this is a crime, make no mistake about it, even if the law, as it is constructed now, remains powerless to touch him. It is time we did something about that law—and the culture that sustains it, a culture that puts up a sign saying, "*Huwag kang makialam sa away ng mag-asawa*"—which allows people like Fariñas to do what they do. "Domestic violence" or "spousal abuse" does not quite capture the hell that women like Carlson go through. She herself tried desperately to tell the world about it, before being waylaid at every turn and finding death her only escape.

No, we may not leave well enough alone. It is time we broke down the door on this very public domain and flung away the sign that tells us to keep away from the fights of spouses or partners. Especially when the cries for help of the victim can be heard from one end of the neighborhood to the other. Especially when the results of the battering can be seen well beneath the sunglasses of the victim to her deadened heart, or soul. These are not fights, these are bloody murder.

And not even all this captures the life, or living death, Maria Teresa Carlson tried to tell the world she endured at the hands of her husband. Fariñas has managed to escape the law by depicting his wife as a mental case, as someone who had hallucinations and psychotic episodes, and therefore could not be believed. Well, it's probably true she was a mental case. But that is not the cause, that is the effect. Who would not end up having psychotic episodes from systematic physical and mental torture? I don't know that Fariñas will ever be made to pay for his wife's death by our courts of law, I can only hope the women's groups find a way to do it. But we have other courts to go to, the court of public opinion chief of them. The law may be powerless to touch him, but our collective derision is not.

We can always make sure he lives the life of O.J. Simpson from here on.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Aborted Senate coup

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS we left Manila for Mexico City early last week to cover the Christian Democrat International (CDI) conference, frenzied texting was going on about an alleged coup brewing against Senate President Franklin Drilon. The talk became rife after Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, obviously serving as the mouthpiece of the opposition in the Senate, delivered a privilege speech attacking the alleged lack of direction of the chamber. Then the opposition moved to have all positions in the Senate declared vacant, including the Senate presidency which Drilon won by a two-vote margin last July.

* * *

In Mexico City, I asked Drilon, who was among the high officials who accompanied President Macapagal on her US visit, about this talk of a coup by his former friends in the Erap administration, such as his longtime partner in the Accra law office, Sen. Edgardo Angara. Drilon smiled and said the opposition would doubtless keep trying to unseat him, but it would not succeed as the majority had the numbers and colleagues like Sen. Manny Villar, Juan Flavier and Rene Cayetano were holding the fort in his absence. He recalled with a laugh that the President called him up early one morning at Blair House, where the highest Filipino officials were staying during Ms Macapagal's visit, and told him: "Frank, *baka hindi mo pa nadinig ang* coup rumors."

* * *

To win the Senate top post an absolute majority is needed, and Drilon obtained a 13-11 vote last July. When he left two weeks ago, the opposition saw an opportunity to take him out. They declared all positions vacant, a move needing only a majority of a quorum. At the time, only 19 senators were in Manila since Senators Loren Legarda and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. were with Drilon for the US visit, while Sen. Robert Barbers was seeking medical treatment in the United States and Sen. Blas Ople was in Geneva. With 10 majority and nine minority senators left in Manila, the opposition's gambit was to win over one majority senator to their side, so that they could elect an "acting" Senate president with their 10 votes. But they failed.

Had the minority succeeded in getting 10 votes, this would have meant that once all the senators went home, the majority would have 12—instead of 13—the same number as the opposition. Under the rules, in case of a 12-12 tie, the acting Senate president gets to keep the post since 13 votes are needed to unseat him.

* * *

If Drilon is to become more effective, he has to widen his slim margin. Right now, he is stymied in his efforts to demonstrate a firm leadership by his tenuous hold on the chamber, unlike Speaker Jose de Venecia whose leadership in the bigger chamber faces no serious challenge.

The deep division in the Senate, a source of tremendous tension, merely reflects the broader political scene. Some political pundits I've talked with, however, view the recent move against Drilon as part of a concerted effort by the opposition to destabilize the Edsa Dos forces in order to undermine the Macapagal administration. The pundits also cite the impeachment complaint filed in the House against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, which doubtless is designed to hamstrung his efforts to bring the prosecution of deposed President Estrada to a successful conclusion. The word war between Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and Justice Anacleto Badoy falls under this category, too, as did the recent burning of the house of Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and the efforts to destroy the credibility of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who played a lead role in the impeachment trial and in cementing support for the new Macapagal administration. A number of Cabinet members are also being harassed before the Commission on Appointments.

* * *

In Mexico City, the Senate president appeared unperturbed by the power struggle in the Senate, and chose to dwell longer on the President's visit to the United States. Drilon said he was present at five meetings the President had: with President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Adviser Condolezza Rice, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Power. He said he was very impressed with Ms Macapagal's performance as she projected confidence, competence and leadership. One of the most impressive, he said, was her meeting with the Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank composed of leading academics, diplomats (including past US ambassadors to Manila) and business executives. "*Hindi puwedeng bolahin ang grupo na ito,*" he explained. But Drilon noted that during the 45-minute question-and-answer portion, Ms Macapagal was asked very tough questions on the economy, foreign and bilateral relations with the United States, terrorism, etc., and she acquitted herself very well.

* * *

Drilon also pointed out that the US leaders were all very warm to Ms Macapagal, doubtless because she was the first Asian leader to rally behind Bush's call and pledge unwavering support. In return, Bush assured Ms Macapagal that he was "prepared to support you all the way" and one such support came in the form of a pledge of $4.5 billion in war materiel, which Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes will follow up with the Cinpac in Hawaii. Another pledge made by Bush, said Drilon, was to help in detecting the laundered money of the Abu Sayyaf.

On the other hand, Ms Macapagal's "*katarayan*" surfaced during her meeting with the deputy secretary of the Veterans' Affairs Office in Washington. They were discussing the welfare of the Filipino veterans, many of whom still have not received their rightful compensation. Ms Macapagal was said to have expressed displeasure over that office's failure to follow up the Veterans Equity Bill now pending before the US Congress, authored by Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye. She also lamented that the implementing rules and regulations on an earlier veterans law granting compensation to Filipino veterans living in the United States have not been fleshed out yet, while Filipino veterans were dying one by one.

The American official promised to work hard on those items, to which Ms Macapagal snapped, "And fast." Ambassador Ernesto Gidaya and retired Col. Emmanuel De Ocampo of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, who were there during the meeting, later said that they had been covering veterans affairs since the time of the late President Diosdado Macapagal but had not heard of any Filipino chief executive dealing with US officials on this subject with such brutal frankness.

Rights of a foreign spouse

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EXPLAINING why he had no motive to plan or order the killing of his late wife Nida Blanca, Rod Lauren Strunk unwittingly focused attention on the situation of foreigners married to Filipinos and living here.

"As a foreigner," he told reporters, "I know I have no right to own property. So I knew that whatever property Nida and I accumulated during our marriage would go to Kay (Nida's daughter) upon Nida's death. I always knew that, so there's no reason for me to resent it now."

And indeed, reports say that Blanca's will named Kay the main beneficiary of her estate.

But foreign spouses of Filipinos stand to lose more than property or rightful inheritance. Our laws are such that in the event of a less-than-amicable dissolution of the marriage, the foreign spouse also stands to lose custody of the children and even the right to stay in the country.

One such case involves an Indonesian woman, said to be a former beauty queen, whose marriage to a Filipino businessman came to an end almost 20 years ago. Because her husband did not arrange her papers for citizenship, the woman remained technically an alien. So to be able to stay in the Philippines with her children, she has had to routinely extend her alien certificate of registration, and when the maximum allowable number of extensions is reached, she flies off to Indonesia, reenters the country, and the whole process starts again. This has been going on for almost two decades!

As far as Sandra Carvalho is concerned, this woman is even lucky, for at least she is able to live with her children. Long-time readers will, I hope, remember Sandra. A native of Brazil married to a scion of a prominent Chinese-Filipino family, she lost touch with her three sons when her husband fled and took the boys with him. For years, she searched in vain for their whereabouts until a judge ordered her husband to "produce" the boys in court. Since then, Sandra has won "visitation" rights, though the irregular visits are filled with tension, especially since her husband insists on being present whenever the boys are with her.

* * *

LAST Nov. 5, Sandra was taking a shower after returning home from a trip to Baguio, when she heard loud knocking on her door. She found agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation announcing that she was under arrest as an overstaying alien.

She was brought to the BID offices in Intramuros and stayed there for three days. She was released only after representations were made with Commissioner Andrea Domingo. Still, she must put up money for bail while the threat of deportation—and possibly never seeing her sons again—looms over her.

Naturally, and with reason, Sandra suspects her husband, Henry Ocier, of plotting her deportation, which he has tried to do in the past. But as an alien involved in a legal dispute with an estranged Filipino spouse, Sandra is caught in a bind.

"Only the Filipino spouse can petition the courts for Filipino citizenship for the foreign spouse," says Sandra. Something her husband, who has filed for an annulment of their marriage, is not about to do. Neither can the foreign spouse attain citizenship through his or her Filipino children.

The case for annulment and custody over the boys has been passed from one judge to another in Makati. After numerous transfers, says Sandra, it was finally raffled off to a "no-nonsense" judge who is known as a stickler for the law. But even before the hearings could start, Sandra was arrested by the BID agents.

* * *

"I HAVE to remain in this country to make sure I can see the boys," Sandra explains. "But in the meantime, I have to find a way to support myself. I can't be depending on friends all the time. I want to hold my head up high, too. But the government, through the BID and the labor department, makes it so difficult for me to stay in this country and support myself."

Meanwhile, as she fights to put off fires on the immigration and employment fronts, Sandra struggles to maintain a relationship with her sons Vini, Victor and Henrique. The trouble is that in the years when their father dragged them around the country and pulled them in and out of several schools, he seems to have filled their heads with stories of their mother's "evil" ways and the need for secrecy.

* * *

REPORTS of psychologists assigned by the court to assess the boys' relationship with their parents make for heartbreaking reading.

The portrait painted is that of three boys who are unusually cowed and submissive for their age. When asked what they like doing for leisure, one answered, "Praying." Another seemed to be obsessed with the idea of his mother's "abortion" that seems to prove her being a sinner and a bad influence. Sandra says this must stem from a miscarriage she suffered shortly before the separation that her husband now describes as an "abortion." During their first meeting, recounts Sandra, her second son insisted on sprinkling her first with "holy water."

"All I want is to be part of their lives," says Sandra. "All I want is to do the normal things, like taking part in parent-teacher meetings, to meet their playmates, take them shopping."

Sandra is more determined than ever to win full custody of her children. "If he were only a nice person," she says of her husband, "if I could only know for sure that he would bring them up well and not destroy their memories of me, I would even willingly give him custody and I would leave this country."

But while she searches for elusive "peace of mind," Sandra must continue with her legal battles and her struggle to stay in this country and assert her right to motherhood and a dignified existence.

The fine art of murder

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FOR THOSE of us who are avid readers of "whodunit" stories, murder cases in this country stagger you first with the blatant manner in which they're committed and later by the degree of ineptness displayed by the authorities. We don't mean murders committed by jealous husbands or lovers or drug-crazed loonies or, even worse, dull, dull, dull politically motivated ones without a hint of subtlety where the victim is mowed down in front of the whole town and everyone knows whose henchmen did what. Aside from the victim's family, no one cares either. Then the widow runs in his stead and wins.

Nah, we devotees of P.D. James, Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh or Sue Grafton are not even fans of those gory tales of serial killers that depend on the gross ability of the author to invent numerous instances of torture and violence to sell books. No, what we enjoy is the precise logical mind of a murderer who kills elegantly.

You might ask if crime is ever elegant. Naturally not, but the manner in which it is told can very well be. John Dickson Carr, for one, used to invent wonderful mysteries where you had to figure out how the murder was committed when the windows were barred and the doors were locked.

To write a successful murder-mystery means that the reader's interest is captured from the first to the last page by suspense, that the author does not "cheat" (i.e. all the clues are there to be interpreted correctly) and of course, some kind of relationship is established between the reader and the killer or, if you wish, with the narrator who may or may not be the hero or heroine. Sometimes the narrator is the killer.

I don't know if you remember, but poor Bubby Dacer and his driver were killed several months ago, with practically a whole barrio in on it, but to date the pathetic Philippine National Police doesn't appear to even have a suspect. Why the driver had to be included can only mean: (a) life is cheap around here, (b) the killers didn't care whether they killed one or 10 people in the process of eliminating their victim, and (c) they were confident they wouldn't be caught.

Several months later not even a motive has surfaced or if anyone aside from the person who ordered the killing knows, he is not saying anything. After that awful incident, with the police promising every day that a solution was at hand and hogging the evening news, suddenly there is silence. Life goes on with the insulting announcement that crime statistics show a decline.

As a matter of fact, it reminds me of the Kuratong Baleleng murder case. It was one of those St. Valentine's Day Massacre type of gangland war, with lots of corpses and oodles of witnesses and an obvious motive since the $11 million supposedly went missing. Yet no one has been convicted for the crime. You think maybe they committed suicide like Ninoy and soon Nida Blanca, too?

I have no idea why killers here have a tendency to be such groupies. I mean does it take a whole village to kill one person? It's true Filipinos don't like going to movies alone or window-shop by themselves or eat in restaurants by their lonesome, but it's a bit too much to gather a battalion just for a simple murder. It's plain overkill, if you'll excuse the pun. You'd think they're deliberately looking for witnesses.

I also do not know why they're so messy in going about the business. Surely there are pills that simulate heart attacks or even cause them. Or they could try getting one of those hired killers from Hong Kong who fly in, do the job and leave on the next flight out before the police can even say, "We are arresting *da saspect* shortly." (There's always anthrax—if we can figure out how or where—and since our law enforcement agencies are so woefully ill-equipped, ill-prepared and ill-staffed, no one will even suspect what it was.)

If it is true that Philip Medel merely wanted his 15 minutes of fame and so confessed to a crime he didn't commit, will someone from the police please explain why they were so willing to accept such an obviously idiotic story? Where have you seen a hired killer, an experienced mercenary, according to them, use a paring knife? Excuse me. Not only that, he kept the bloody murder weapon and the shirt he wore conveniently, apparently as souvenirs. Surely any self-respecting hired killer would get rid of the tell-tale evidence immediately.

Next, you have the so-called mastermind who goes to the trouble of hiring a killer through an intermediary but rides around with him, picks up two women, for no good reason I can imagine except that he wanted witnesses to the crime, and is there for the kill. Why bother to hire someone else to do the dirty work then if you intend to be present? In general, killers are hired because the bad guy makes sure he has an iron-tight alibi while it's happening. That or the police and I do not read the same crime stories.

Neither would anyone (in all those murder mysteries I've read anyway) agree to do the grisly deed without a down payment. I mean, would you?

Yet the police supposedly accepted the ridiculous story that was shot full of holes at face value. Otherwise one presumes they would not have called a press conference to present the latest *zarzuela* to the whole Philippines. Whoever is their scriptwriter, he should be fired. I don't know who's being taken for a ride, but if your intelligence isn't insulted, mine is.

Dead at 21

YOUNGBLOOD

Veronica C. Manabat

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM 21 and already I feel dead.

The first time I opened my eyes this morning, I felt so heavy and weak. There it was again—sadness seeping through every vein in my body and overflowing from my heart. I blinked a couple of times as I tried to shake off the feeling that had been haunting me for some time. I failed. But at least I know I am still alive.

My life has been like this for quite a while now. Either I feel dead or I am filled with sadness. But most of the time, it's the former. I just let my routine and habits get me through the day. I feel so numb, apathetic and indifferent. Nothing stimulates me. I have lost my appetite for risks and challenges. I have lost my enthusiasm for life. It's as if I am like walking in a surreal world with no idea where I am going. Everything seems so absurd. I cannot make sense of my life anymore. It seems as if there's nothing inside me.

I remember the time recently when we were having first-aid training. The first thing we had to do was get our own carotid pulse as well as our partner's. Everyone found this easy, except me. Even my partner had a hard time locating my pulse. Our trainer had to help me and my partner look for it, and she didn't have an easy time finding it. I saw the unusual expression on her face and told her, "What do you expect? I'm already dead!" But my lips did not move.

It all started during my graduation in April last year. Everyone was excited and happy. My father even got teary-eyed when we went up the stage to receive my diploma and medal. But I was neither elated nor jubilant. I felt numb. I felt as if I was not even there.

By that time, a gloomy realization was starting to come over me. Before graduation, I had been so sure about what I was doing, what I wanted in life. I had a goal: getting a college diploma. But now that I had it, where was I going? Call it post-graduation blues.

Suddenly, I am being forced to go out in a world that is totally unfamiliar to me. It's a world that is so far from the haven of the academe, the world that has been the end-all and be-all of my existence the previous 16 years. I am at a loss. I honestly do not know where to go or what to do with my life. I have no idea why I am walking on the face of the earth, why I exist. I am drifting through the ocean called life.

Maybe it's a good thing that I am sad. At least, it is a sign that I can still feel, that I am still alive. Though it is not the kind of energy that will make you jump for joy, sadness gives me the strength to go on living. Perhaps I have a great capacity for feeling sadness or sadness just flows naturally from any lost soul. I can see it in the cold, serene face of a starry night sky. I feel it when I see the somber black eyes of a boy kneeling and praying inside a church. It embraces me whenever I take an early morning walk to work through the melancholic, rustic air of the hacienda. It fills me every time I watch wonderfully depressing films like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Like Water For Chocolate."

There are times when I feel gloomy for no reason at all. I see, feel and breathe sadness. It makes me think. It makes me feel alive. This profound sadness fills my emptiness.

Still I will keep on breathing. I will keep on walking, sad but hopeful that someday I will find the reason why I am here, why I exist.

I am 21 and feeling dead already. But not when I am sad.

Veronica C. Manabat, 21, is a BA Philosophy graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Being strong

Quisalas

SOMETHING about him attracted me the first time we met. He was quiet and mysterious. There was a depth and complexity in him that intrigued me and that I wanted to uncover.

We became friends—*yosi* partners, to be exact—and during the short times we were together, I started to know him little by little. When he started calling me on the phone, I found out so many wonderful and new things about him. We shared a mutual love for literature and writing. We would talk about everything from movies, books, music and personal experiences to philosophy, art, life and love. I discovered that he had a soft spot for children, that he was generous, thoughtful, funny, sweet, honest, intelligent and wise beyond his years. He was different from all the other people I knew. And eventually, we fell in love.

It was a whole new experience for me. He was my first boyfriend. I had no idea what having a relationship meant; all I knew was that I wanted to be with him. We were happy just being together and sharing things. He was an amazing and beautiful person who had so much passion for life and for the things he held true. We told each other our hopes and dreams, and we shared our struggles and fears. I learned so much from the things he shared of himself, without him knowing, and I truly believe that I became a better person because of him. We have gone through a lot but no matter how hard the going became, we never gave up on each other. Every struggle we encountered, we tried to face together.

Last month, my world was shattered. Nothing could have prepared me for what happened. He told me the last time we talked: "Please be strong. No, I know you will be strong. We'll get through this."

I have always believed that there is no such thing as being strong—just acting strong and trying to be strong. Right now, I'm trying really hard to be strong.

It is difficult to be without the person you love or the person you consider as your best friend. Right now, I feel like I've lost both. My boyfriend was admitted into a private facility for drug dependents and he will be there for more than a month. He has become so much a part of me that I feel lost without him. A month and a half of not seeing him is a really long time. These days, I feel so sad, so alone and so unloved. Sometimes I feel like nobody is taking care of me.

But whenever I remember those times when we would share things, when he would surprise me with flowers, when he would just hold me in his arms and tell me he loves me, I know I don't have to be afraid. Even if we are apart, I know he still loves me as deeply as before.

Now is when he needs most my support, love and understanding. I have to be strong. Please take care of yourself, he said, and that's what I'm doing. What's a month and a half compared to a lifetime with him?

At times I ask myself why this had to happen. I have often wondered why he couldn't just say no to drugs. But then, it's not that simple. Addiction is a disease and different people handle drugs in different ways. Some people can try drugs and that's it. Others can use it for a number of months and just quit without any complications. It just so happened that he had trouble junking the vice.

I am happy that he made the decision to have himself admitted into that facility, that he accepted his addiction and did something about it without waiting for it to become worse. Accepting that one has made a mistake and doing something to correct it is, for me, a very brave thing to do.

He is determined to become completely sober and clean, and I couldn't be prouder of him. I believe that he will see this through and that he will get better. Whenever I feel weak and feel like I couldn't go on another day, I think of how strong he is in facing this problem and I draw my strength from that.

I know that his problem will not go away when he comes back from the facility. I realize that this will be a continuous struggle and lifetime battle, but I intend to be with him every step of the way. I will be there to support, understand and love him. I know we will always see things through together. As he said, things can only become better from now on.

For now, all I can do is wait for him to come back to my arms where he truly belongs.

Quisalas, 20, is majoring in English Literature at a private university in Manila.

Misquoted on PNP chief's extension

THIS has reference to the news item written by Martin Marfil in the Nov. 12 issue of the INQUIRER. I was misquoted on some topics, particularly the extension of the term of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza.

I have no business talking about the Philippine National Police's affairs and more so questioning the prerogative and decision of the President. As in the case of the Aremd Forces of the Philippines, we have to look back to the past and learn from it. The President is more knowledgeable on this issue. We will support her decision as our commander in chief.

Allow me also to expound on the issues of the National ROTC Alumni Association (NARAA) and the Guardians. I am the post commander of Fort Bonifacio. I am also the acting national commander of the NARAA and at same time president of its Philippine Army chapter. The NARAA is the umbrella organization of the non-PMA officers of the AFP. We make up about 70 percent of the officer corps.

The NARAA's vision is to see an Armed Forces that is professionally competent and just, an Armed Forces that can provide equal opportunity for advancement in training and education, assignment and promotions and a welfare system that is socially equitable and meaningful.

Our grand policy is simple: "to strive hard for excellence" in every aspect of our military life. We will make every NARAA member very competitive.

I am also one of the leaders of the Guardians Brotherhood Inc. As a leader, I have experienced being branded as an activist military officer. I think no one can argue that the efforts of the Guardians helped tremendously in improving the AFP. We are now a non-government organization, hence, we also deserve help from the government.

As a NARAA and a Guardian leader, I will guide and rally these two groups to support the President and her government. We are behind her in all her efforts to bring about a peaceful and progressive country.—**MARCIAL A. COLLAO JR., brigadier general, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City**

THERE was no misquotation. Everything is on tape.—**Martin Marfil**

Customs bureau defying GMA's vision

I AM issuing this rejoinder in response to malicious claims peddled by certain quarters in the Bureau of Customs that I am an insubordinate official and that everyone in the bureau, including the commissioner, is afraid of me.

On the contrary, I have never imposed my will without just cause. Neither have I used my affiliation with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement to threaten anybody or make them follow my wishes. If I had the gall to do that, I would have been able to corner a juicy post during the time of President Joseph Estrada.

While it is true that I have seen Commissioner Titus Villanueva at his office a number of times, my primary purpose was to be enlightened on certain general policy directions affecting the bureau and to discuss matters which I deemed to be inconsistent with the government's pledge of a good, honest and mission-driven governance. I never saw Villanueva tremble in fear during those times.

A good journalist would readily sense deceit and subterfuge in the move to reshuffle customs officials. The reshuffle defies logic and utterly lacks of basis or cause. If it were an honest-to-goodness reshuffle, most of the 13 principal ports would have been affected. As it stands however, only six district collectors were changed. Even then, those collectors who were deemed not to be performing well were promoted or given juicy positions.

Take the case of the former district collector of the Port of Batangas, under whose watch a ship and its cargo of smuggled rice miraculously "disappeared," or that of a district collector who couldn't account for the ship with its entire cargo of smuggled rice in the sub-port of Mariveles, Bataan. These incidents were reported in major newspapers in recent weeks.

The commissioner was probably pulling the leg of some media men when he said that my transfer must be interpreted as a challenge since I was successful in turning the Port of Subic into one of our country's top ports in terms of revenue collection. If that were the case, why didn't he transfer me to the Port of Manila, which can be considered a real challenge, given its consistent dismal performance of not meeting the target revenue collection?

The issue is not insubordination, but how the bureau continues to defy the vision defined by the Macapagal administration. I am proud to say that in my own small way, I was among those who helped oust a corrupt and inefficient President. Since then, we vowed to initiate meaningful reforms in the government and rid it of political patronage and corruption. That vision, which sprang from the people's clamor for genuine change, is now being shut out by that questionable order.

I am not being insubordinate or stubborn. I just cannot stomach being a party to an order that would put the bureau in great peril.—**BILLY C. BIBIT, Port of Subic, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City**

Is there no ordinary mail anymore?

THIS has reference to the complaint of Fr. Jose G. Ingaran about his delayed mail and the action taken by Philpost chief, Tirso N. Paglicawan Jr.

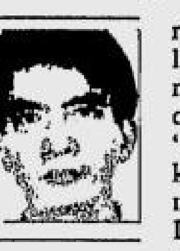
I, too, have complaints not only about delayed mail but mail not received, particularly some letters from abroad for almost two years now.

Because of this, family donations to a public school were abruptly stopped, misunderstanding, mistrust and miscommunication within the family and friends abroad have been created.

Our barrio is right next to the city. When I complained about the lost mail, our barrio captain merely told me to go to the post office and scold them (postmen). The postmaster advised me to ask my family and friends abroad to send their letters by registered mail. Don't we have ordinary mail now?—**TORIANO B. CHUA, 559 Balmores St., Barrio 1, Koronadal, 9506 South Cotabato**

Lights, cameras, injustice

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

LAST year's televised coverage of the Estrada impeachment proceedings showed how mass media could help make government more transparent, and serve the interests of justice. But the recent mass media frenzy over the Nida Blanca murder investigations shows another face to mass media: a sensationalism that can cause serious miscarriages of justice.

Watching the newscasts these days, I think of the "Hawthorne effect," a term coined in 1939 by American management researchers. Hawthorne was the name of a factory where researchers were studying workers' efficiency. The researchers realized that simply by being in the factory as observers, the workers changed their work habits because they knew they were being watched. When I train students to do field research, I always point out the many examples of this Hawthorne effect, from young men trying to impress the young female students interviewing them to politicians exaggerating their achievements.

You can see how this Hawthorne effect can be applied to mass media as well. The presence of media people can change behavior. People begin to "perform" at the sight of a tape recorder or camera: crowds turn into mobs; hostage-takers become more belligerent or hysterical; and "witnesses" volunteer embellished, even fabricated stories.

The Hawthorne effect can be found in all forms of mass media but tends to be stronger with radio and television. Broadcast media tend to set off more cues, even without a director shouting, "Lights, camera, action!"

Maybe because Blanca was herself an actress, mass media's intrusion into "Task Force Marsha" transformed the entire country into one big movie set with a wannabe cast of millions. Everyone, from Philip Medel's landlady to Blanca's many fans, ended up vying for a role, trying to grab a few seconds for a sound bite or a camera shot.

Unfortunately, the biggest celebrity wannabes were the investigators themselves. From the first day after Blanca's death, her relatives, all too familiar with our law-enforcement (*sic*) agencies, appealed to the authorities not to use fall guys. But as the investigation unfolded, it was clear there was going to be a miscarriage of justice and that mass media were contributing to the charade.

There are actually two fall guys in this whole mess: Medel and Philippine National Police Director Nestorio Gualberto. Gualberto was so clearly hungry for *pogi* points, claiming each day that he had "new leads." I remember at one point he was very sure it was Blanca's driver who murdered the actress. When asked if he had enough evidence, he said he didn't, but added that he would have it, eventually. Sherlock Holmes he was not.

But poor Gualberto was himself a victim of circumstances, working in an agency that suffers from a lack of public credibility, riddled with corruption, inefficiency and incompetence, and competing with other agencies. It is not surprising then that such officials try so hard to improve their image through the media, only to get themselves into more trouble.

The results can be pathetic. Unfortunately for Gualberto, their fall guy was Medel, another wannabe celebrity of sorts. Medel was like a supporting actor who tore up his script and, with all sound and fury (on camera of course), upstaged the main players.

Medel's histrionics wasn't half as bad as one of the government lawyers' well-intentioned intervention, which was again so clearly affected by the presence of cameras. "Do not restrain him. Let him speak," the lawyer ordered. "This is a democracy!" Not content with that eloquent plea, the lawyer barked out, "Let the alleged self-confessed killer speak." Perry Mason he was not. (Oops, for younger readers, I should say, Ally McBeal he was not.)

Certainly, our free mass media have been useful in creating transparency and accountability. Without mass media watching our officials, the corruption would be even more rampant. But we have to recognize, too, that mass media outfits are commercial ventures that often pander to the public's desire for spectacle and sleaze.

Mass media and our officials feed into each other, and are reducing politics and governance into another long-running sitcom, with bad scripts and ham actors. Who remembers the televised Senate melodrama with their investigations into narcopolitics, starring Rosebud and Loren with look-alike costumes? These days, we're treated instead to Ate Loren on Ariel detergent advertisements. (Eat your heart out, Kuya Ping.)

It's time we get back to fundamentals. Our senators have wasted enough of our money with their charades. The police have wasted our money, too, with their made-for-television investigations, telegraphing their every move on radio and television. The real culprits flee, witnesses' lives are endangered and innocent people are condemned without a trial.

Mass media should back off and allow the police and politicians to do their work, off camera. Eventually, these civil servants will learn that if they want *pogi* points, they'll get it by "performing" well, in what they're supposed to be doing, rather than in press conferences and televised interviews.

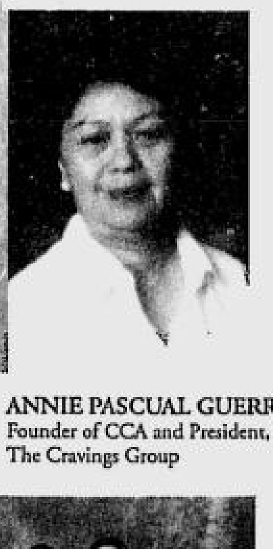
* * *

Comments to miguel@ pinoy kasi.net

The Center for Culinary Arts, Manila Turns Five

CCA
Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

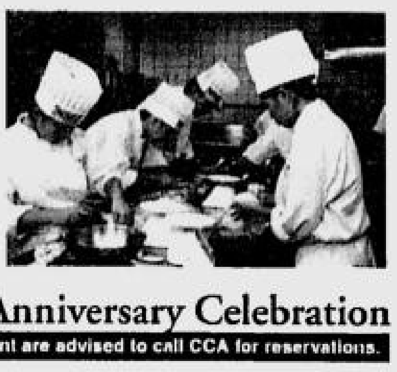
BADJIE TRINIDAD
General Manager
The Cravings Group



ANNIE PASCUAL GUERRERO, CCP
Founder of CCA and President,
The Cravings Group

CCA FACULTY
Chefs Bubbles Cruz,
Pauline Lagdameo,
Rommel Hinlo,
Gene Cordova,
Kim Santos,
Bong Ignacio,
Vicky Villanueva (standing);
Aileen Jaraza,
Marilen Fontanilla,
Tina Aquino,
Cris Abiva and
Sharlene Golding

CHEF RAMON ABALOS
(2nd from left) prepares his winning menu at the TESDA National Skills Olympics.



Students holding laboratory class in one of CCA's fully eqiupped kitchens.

CCA 5th Anniversary Celebration

Those interested to attend the event are advised to call CCA for reservations.

1 PM	Registration
2 PM	Holy Mass
3 PM	Program • Book launch of Annie Guerrero's "Cooking with Love", Cris Abiva's "A Quick Guide to Filipino Cooking", "CCA's Newsletter "CuisinA" and the CCA Website.
4-6 PM	Cocktails and Open House

**The Center for Culinary Arts, Manila is 287 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City.
For more information call 426-48-41, 426-48-36, 426-48-25, fax 426-48-40 or e-mail culinary@info.com.ph**

The Center for Culinary Arts,Manila (CCA), the only school in the country dedicated to producing professional chefs, first opened its doors in 1996. The idea for such an institution however, must have started percolating in the mind of Annie Pascual Guerrero's mind much earlier. Maybe since her younger days when she helped out in the kitchen while her mother, Susana, held short-term cooking lessons in cooking, baking, cake decorating, small-scale food preservation, smoking, ice-cream making and catering at the family home in Malabon.

To this day, Guerrero treasures a copy of a certificate given out by her mother as well as memories of happy graduation ceremonies held at the vast family orchard.

The fruits of this lifetime passion for culinary arts are the famous Cravings chain of restaurants, The Orange Place and Seven Suites hotels, and of course the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila.

The CCA, which celebrates its 5th anniversary tomorrow, spun off from the famous Cravings restaurant. In1988, the Cravings Bakeshop counter opened at Katipunan Ave. Loyola Heights, in Quezon City and easily became a byword among food lovers. Four years and several outlets later, it introduced a Young Chefs Summer Program where kids learned the basics of cooking.

Encouraged by the response to the program, Guerrero cooked up a novel project, the CCA, which was inaugurated in 1996. Short-term cooking courses usually held from Monday to Friday were offered during the school's first year of operations.

In June 1997, the CCA launched two formal academic programs, Diploma in Culinary Arts and Technology Management and Diploma in Baking and Pastry Arts.

The Diploma in Culinary Arts and Technology Management is a two-year course that develops a student's culinary skills and competencies in planning, operation and supervision of an institutional and commercial kitchen. It covers food and beverage production, Butchery, Nutrition, Food Safety and Sanitation, and Asian, Filipino, American, French and other European cuisine. There are also courses on Human and Material Resources Management, Sales, Marketing and Promotions, and Catering and Banquet. The course provides students with a solid foundation in the principles, procedures and techniques of culinary arts and management. The key persons responsible for the endeavor were Guerrero and Chef Amadeo Jimenez and the vision was for the institution to be at par with the world's best. The CCA was, and is still, affiliated with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, one of Canada's foremost educational institutions.

The next year saw the school receiving a Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) accreditation as well as the launch of its one year Certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts. The one-year Certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts program emphasizes hands-on laboratory experience as well as externship training for thorough mastery of procedures and techniques in baking and pastry arts. The course also prepares students for bakeshop operations with extensive studies on the Fundamentals of Bread and Roll, Quick Bread, Pie and Pastry Technologies, Cake Technology and Cake Finishing, and Special Desserts and Breads.

CCA's competency-based curricula were developed by a faculty of professional chefs trained in prestigious culinary institutions abroad. Instructors are also SERVESAFE certified and have passed the professional Cooking and Baking Certification Test, a regulated exam by the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association of the United States.

Aside from CCA's regular courses, the school also has a Continuing Education Program that offers weekend courses on various topics about culinary arts and professional food service management. In 1999 new courses were added to CCA's diploma curicculum. These were French Cuisine, Butchery, Fish Mongerie and Restaurant Service Operations.

The first batch of CCA students graduated in June of this year. In December, the school held its first of what would eventually be a regular event, the *Garde Manger* Simulation. It is an affair that highlights CCA students' proficiency in both cooking and food presentation in specific cuisines.

In the year 2000, CCA signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Miriam College Foundation. Under the MOA, Miriam's BS Entrepreneurship students take culinary courses every Saturday. The CCA also does its bit for the community through feeding and training programs that benefit the less fortunate.

To date, CCA has graduated four batches. Its students have consistently proven their mettle in the culinary field by winning various prizes in major culinary competitions. In the1998 edition of Chefs on Parade, CCA students won silver medals in table setting competition and on-the-spot cocktail mixing. That same year, a delegation from CCA was well received at a culinary festival in Singapore. In Chefs on Parade 2000, students Jehan Fernandez, Lorraine Dytian and Sonia Inducil were awarded the gold medal in the on-the-spot cake decorating competition. Meanwhle, Kim Lori Ngo and Mary Grace Tan copped the silver medal in the Filipino dessert display competition. Another silver medal was won by CCA students Chinky Castro, TJ Montalbo, Kiko Rustia, Mariel de Guzman and Desiree Lim for their Millennium-themed table setting. A bronze medal for the cold seafood platter competition was won by Pia Abadesco.

The latest student to win accolades for the CCA is Ramon Abalos. He won first prize in the TESDA Skills Olympics for the National Capital Region last August and went on to clinch the gold in the national competition held recently in Davao City.

The award-winning chef has since graduated and is now part of the CCA faculty. Other CCA alumni are either working for luxury hotels, restaurants or have embarked on their own food business ventures.

Of late, the CCA has started offering customized training programs for different food companies such as Nestle, Sanofi Synthelabo, and the SYSU Group whose products include Lee Kum Kee, Kikkoman and San Remo food products. These customized courses include research and development for recipes as well as special short courses.

As it moves to the future, CCA promises to continue providing expert instruction in culinary arts, thus assuring that its graduates will be earning culinary degrees that are recognized abroad, which in turn gives them lots of opportunities for a successful career.

Pinay wife denies link to Canadian's slay

KUWAIT CITY—The Filipino wife of a Canadian shot dead here last month insists that she and Filipino Teddy Tomaro were not the killers, who she claims she had never seen prior to the shooting.

The English-daily Kuwait Times Sunday published a transcript of a conversation between Mary-Jane Bitos and her lawyer Ahmad Qurban, during which Bitos, a prime suspect, maintains her innocence.

"The man was wearing a long sleeved checkered shirt. It was colored blue and paired with brown pants. He looked kind of dirty, sort of sloppy; that kind of thing. He was wearing a headdress... wrapped around his head," Bitos says when asked by Qurban what the gunman was wearing.

Seven Filipinos, including Bitos, were arrested on suspicion of involvement in Luc Ethier's murder on Oct. 10 as he walked with his wife through a busy shopping area south of Kuwait City.

The interior ministry has named Tomaro as the ringleader and said the seven had planned to share Ethier's life insurance money.

"Teddy is not my boyfriend," Bitos says in the transcript. "I used to see him around at Fintas Towers when we used to live there. I knew him only through Rose (Rosalie Baclig)," one of the suspects, Bitos adds.

Bitos, who was also shot during the attack and is still recovering in hospital, also insists she was forced to confess under duress.

"Luc Ethier's wife is a very cunning woman," a senior security source said on Sunday. "We have no doubt she is involved in her husband's murder."

In the transcript, Bitos recalls her last moments with Ethier, as well as the shooting and subsequent events, particularly her questioning by Kuwaiti security authorities.

Soon after Ethier's murder, Kuwaiti Majid al-Mutairi, an Islamist, was arrested as a suspect but released immediately after the Filipinos were arrested. *AFP*

Solons debate impeachment rules

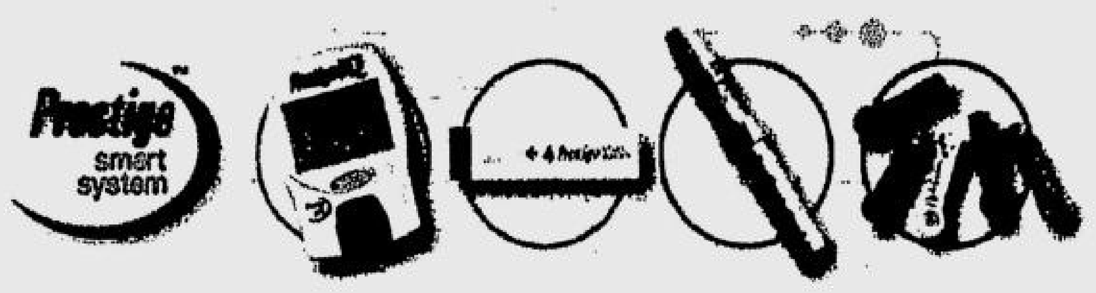
THE HOUSE devoted yesterday's session solely on deliberations on the proposed new rules on the conduct of impeachment proceedings, its leadership acknowledging that the chamber was now under pressure to rush its approval.

"We are under pressure for we don't want to be accused of sleeping on the impeachment complaint filed against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto," House Majority Floor Leader Neptali Gonzales II told reporters.

Gonzales was reacting to the statements last week of Ernesto Francisco, the lawyer who filed the impeachment complaint against Desierto, on the slow action of his complaint in the House.

The approval of the proposed new rules on the conduct of impeachment proceedings would allow the House committee on rules to finally refer the complaint filed against Desierto to the House committee on justice.

Yesterday, the House suspended the holding of the privilege hour of congressmen normally reserved for Mondays so that deliberations on the proposed rules would begin.



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THE REGISTRAR
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#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

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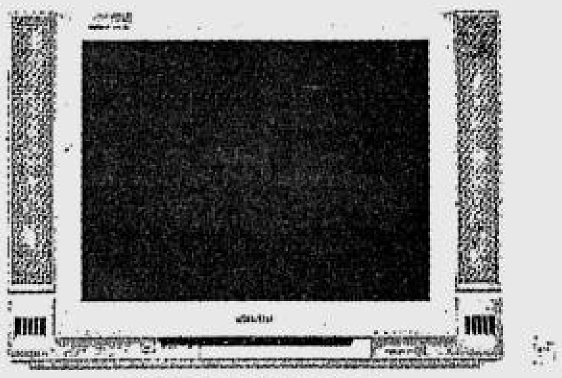

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SAN PEDRO - 27 National Highway, Brgy. Nueva, San Pedro, Laguna
SM CITY CEBU - 2nd Level, SM City Cebu, NRA, Cebu City
SURIGAO - P. Burgos St., Surigao City
TACURONG - Lantel Bldg., Magsaysay Ave., cor. Abad Santos St., Tacurong, Sulta
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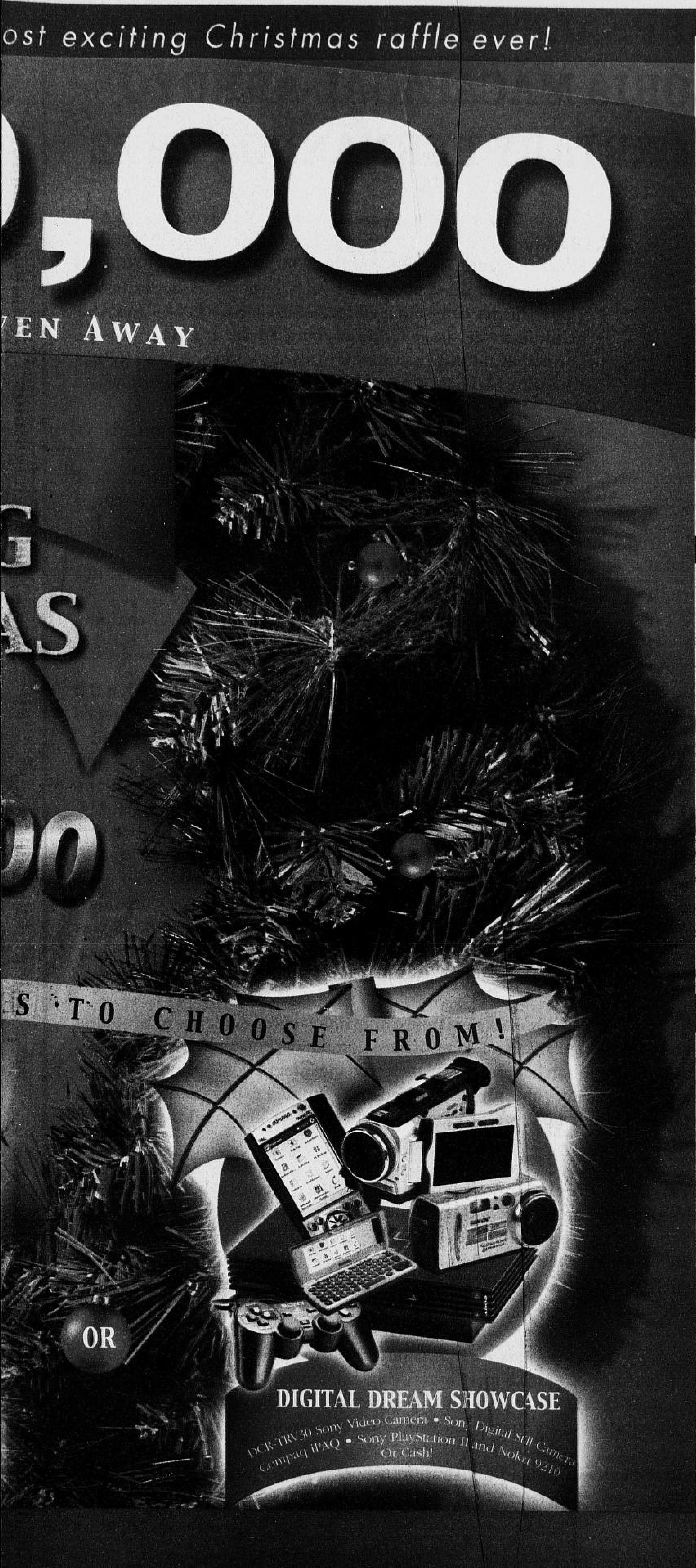
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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ , Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

• Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries.

Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

•Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.

•All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

•Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is ₱2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

• A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.

• For every ₱250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	80	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

• For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of ₱2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

•Via Activation

•Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

• Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	Nov. 1 -30, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	Dec. 1-31, 2001 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.
Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still Camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)
Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given ₱175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

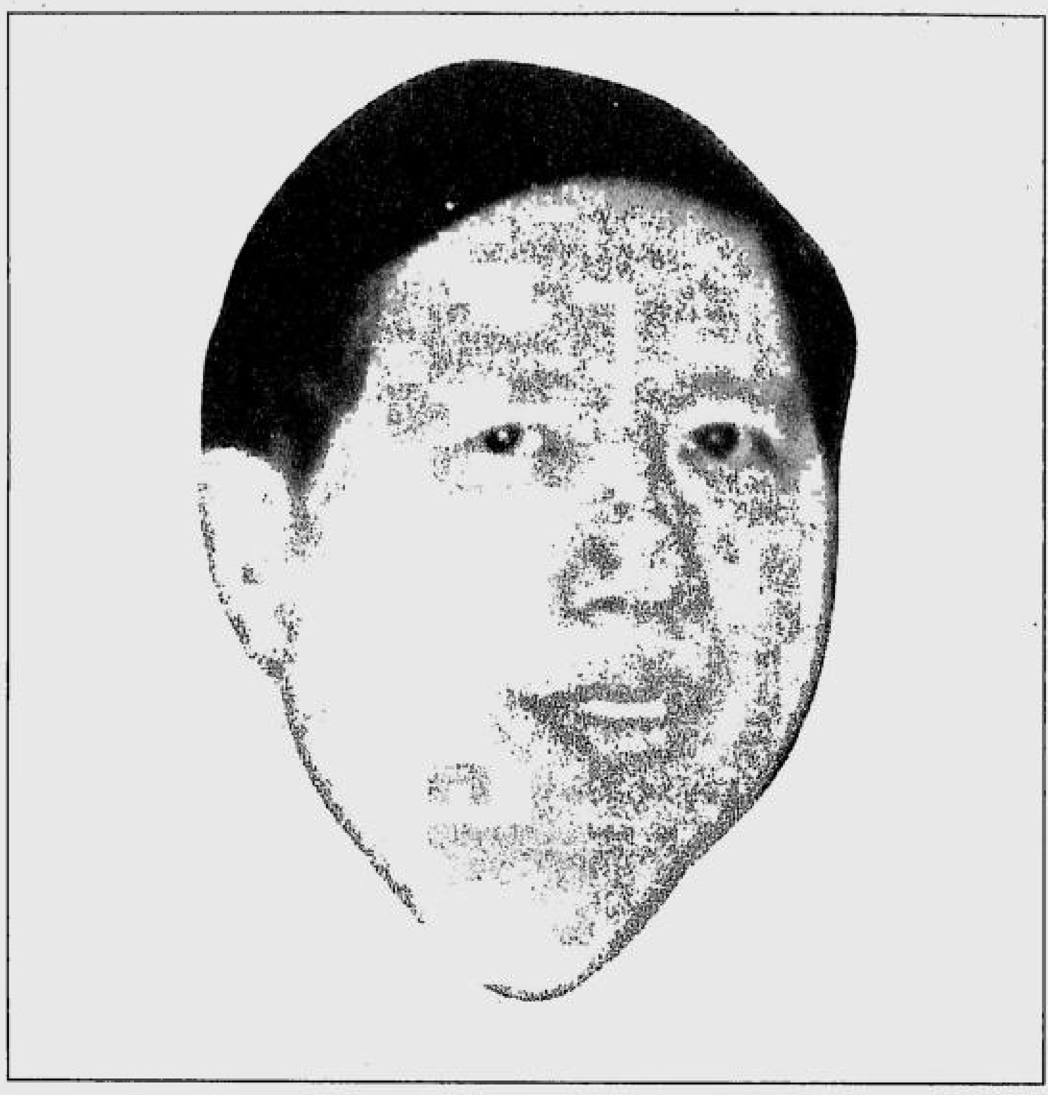
*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

SMART Buddy Pre-paid

SMART GOLD GSM

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

OPEN LETTER-APPEAL TO HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AND JUSTICE SECRETARY HERNANDO PEREZ



Mr. Luke Roxas
"RETURN OUR MONEY"

The undersigned are among the 712 creditors **of ASB Holdings Inc. (ASBHI), a corporation owned and controlled by** MR. LUKE ROXAS. **ASB Holdings, Inc. and MR. LUKE ROXAS have accumulated about** P4 BILLION **pesos in deposits and investments from said creditors. MR. LUKE ROXAS and ASB Holdings, Inc issued checks representing the return of the principal amount and interest to all of us. In short, ASBHI was made by LUKE ROXAS as a front for** quasi-banking business.

ASBHI financial records submitted before the SEC shows that in the first quarter of 2000, MR. LUKE ROXAS took stockholder advances from ASB Holdings, Inc. in the amount of **4.9 BILLION**, thereby depleting the funds and net worth of ASBHI. The checks issued by ASBHI were dishonored by the drawee bank, due to the stop payment order by the issuer on the alleged unusual ground that the account was **"FUNDED"** but **"PAYMENT STOPPED"**. Both the issuer and the drawee bank refused to pay these checks with interest from about 712 creditors despite demand.

Criminal charges of SWINDLING **and** ECONOMIC SABOTAGE **have been filed before the Department of Justice against MR. ROXAS and ASBHI. To escape criminal liability, MR. ROXAS utilized the Securities and Exchange Commission** through the tactic **of filing a petition for Suspension of Payment on May 02, 2000. In his petition, all the corporations under the ownership and control of MR. LUKE ROXAS were named as the petitioners alleging that these firms/ corporations are in financial distress. However, ASBHI, which in reality, does not engage in real estate business, is included in the petition in order to shield MR. ROXAS from his financial anomaly.**

Madame President and Mr. Justice Secretary, the 712 individual / victims are investors / creditors of ASB Holdings, Inc. In reality, this corporation does not engage in real estate business and is not in financial distress as alleged by Mr. Roxas in his petition. Consequently, upon maturity of the checks issued by ASBHI, these checks should be paid. Otherwise, our banking business will be imperiled or subject to doubts and suspicion with regard to honor our commercial transactions.

What happened now is that the Department of Justice, despite the **existence of prima facie of evidence or probable cause** of criminal liability against ROXAS and his cohorts, had dismissed some of these complaints but several or substantial complaints are still pending. The slow movement of resolution had created suspicion on the integrity of DOJ and its ability to protect the public. **As a matter of fact, some of the investors have already passed away, unable to pay for their funeral or hospital expense; discontinued the operation of their business; stopped the schooling of their children; or even suffered deprivation in their daily subsistence.**

But the most significant issue on this case is that the victims of swindling had no legal recourse, both in criminal and civil cases up to this time. If DOJ dismisses the criminal charges and the SEC granted the suspension of payment, which MR. LUKE ROXAS is using as a shield to get away from his liabilities, WHERE SHALL WE GO TO SEEK JUSTICE? **Recently, Mr. Roxas is again published in the newspaper for allegedly bribing the Ombudsman in order to suppress the investigation of the Petron scam with which his business entity is involved. We hope that this reported corruption of public officials would not happen to SEC and DOJ.**

Madame President and Mr. Justice Secretary, we are **investors, businessmen and citizens** of the Philippines. If you cannot protect us from the criminal syndicate of Roxas despite our being Filipinos, **how can you convince foreign investors to** come and invest in the Philippines? More crimes of this nature would continue in the business community if certain functionaries in the government have no will to perform its duty, maybe, for "millions" of reasons.

We appeal for justice. If justice is not given to us in your administration, where shall we go? We hope that you give serious attention on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

ASB SWINDLED VICTIMS:

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Nepal state of emergency urged

KATMANDU, Nepal—The government of this Himalayan country called on the king to declare a state of emergency Monday, after Maoist rebels killed at least 76 soldiers, police officers and state officials in weekend attacks.

"The Cabinet has taken a serious decision to seek a state of emergency, and by the evening it will be declared," Water Resources Minister Bijaya Gachchedar said after the Cabinet met in an emergency session.

The formal declaration has to be made by King Gyanendra, the constitutional monarch, who was out of the capital, Katmandu, and not expected back until the evening.

The king was likely to endorse the recommendation of the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who has already met Gyanendra twice to discuss the rebel attacks.

The Cabinet's recommendation comes in the wake of a devastating rebel attack on Sunday night that killed at least 34 soldiers, police officers and government officials in a mountainous village.

The rebel side also suffered heavy casualties the attack in Solukhumbu, 200 km northeast of Katmandu, said Interior Security Minister Khum Bahadur Khadka.

The total number of security forces and government officials killed has climbed to 76 since Friday, when the rebels, fighting for a socialist republic in Nepal, broke a four-month ceasefire and launched attacks across the Himalayan kingdom.

In the attack Sunday night, the rebels killed five soldiers, 28 police officers and the chief district officer. Khadka said the guerrillas had bombed the district administration office, the dirt-strip airport and the local bank during the attack.

Airports and borders will remain open and government offices will function as normal under the state of emergency, he said, but security would be tightened across the nation.

The military and the armed police were being mobilized to comb the hide-outs of the rebels, concentrated mostly in the remote hills of midwest Nepal. Public activities by Maoists and publications supporting them have been banned.

On Wednesday, the rebel leader, known as Prachanda, called off peace talks with the government. He said attempts to find a peaceful settlement had failed after the government rejected his demand for a new Constitution.

The government supports the constitutional monarchy with the king as the ceremonial head of the state. The present system was adopted in 1990, after a democratic movement toppled the absolute monarchy.

Thousands of guerrillas led by Prachanda, whose real name is Pushpa Kumar Dahal, have waged an insurgency in remote mountainous areas to end the monarchy and install a socialist republic in Nepal.

The six-year campaign has claimed more than 1,800 lives.

The guerrillas fashion themselves after Peru's Shining Path guerrillas. Maoist rebels draw their name from China's revolutionary communist leader Mao Tse-tung, who once said that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Swiss plane crash kills 24

ZURICH—Swiss police said Sunday that 24 people were killed in the Crossair plane crash in woodland near Zurich airport, and two survivors were critically injured. Rescuers dragged 10 bodies from the smashed and charred remains of the Jumbolino plane, which came down late Saturday. They later said none of the 14 people listed as missing would be found alive. Nine of the plane's 28 passengers and five crew survived the crash. "It's absolutely miraculous that some passengers were able to escape," one rescuer told Swiss television. The aircraft, on a flight from Berlin, crashed in a forest in the Birchwill area near Zurich airport shortly as it was coming in to land. Accident investigators have yet to say what they believe to be the cause of the crash. *AFP*

Suicide bombing at Gaza

GAZA—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up on Monday in a terminal at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, wounding at least two soldiers, an Army spokesperson said. "A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in the laborer's terminal at Erez crossing. Two border police officers were lightly wounded in the explosion," the spokesperson said. The bombing followed Israel's killing of a top member of the militant Hamas on Friday and came hours before the scheduled arrival of a new US peace mission to the region. It was the latest in a fresh wave of violence in which at least seven Palestinians and one Israeli have been killed. Hundreds of Palestinian laborers cross daily from the Gaza Strip to work in Israel. *Reuters*

New movement in N. Korea

SEOUL—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has launched a new revolutionary movement dubbed 'Ranam' in a desperate new bid to avoid the Stalinist state's lurch toward collapse. The North's state media said Monday that the new movement was prompted by "miracles" performed by workers at the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex in the northeastern port of Chongjin. The Ranam workers have been praised for advancing the production of ordered equipment dramatically through technical innovation and the utilization of waste objects despite the lack of food, raw materials and electricity. Touched by their "revolutionary militant spirit," Kim has ordered a drive to build "a people's paradise on this land at an early date," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a weekend dispatch. *AFP*

New Honduras president

MADURO

TEGUCIGALPA—Supporters of Ricardo Maduro took to the streets across Honduras in celebration early Monday, honking car horns and waving flags as official results showed their candidate winning Sunday's presidential vote. With 18 percent of the vote counted, Maduro, from the conservative National Party, had 52 percent of the vote, against 45 percent for opponent Rafael Pineda from the governing Liberal Party, according to official results late Sunday.. "Today the Honduran people won, we were an example of democratic voting," said Maduro, 55, as he was besieged by thousands of supporters at the party's downtown headquarters when he claimed victory, just before official results were released. *AFP*

China tries US engineer

BEIJING—A Chinese court on Monday resumed trial proceedings for an American electrical engineer accused of obtaining state secrets and giving bribes, a court official said. The case against Fong Fuming, of West Orange, New Jersey, was being heard behind closed doors because it involves secrets, said the official at Beijing's No.1 Intermediate People's Court. She would only give her surname, Zhong. Fong is the latest of several US citizens and residents tried by China this year on security charges. The 66-year-old was accused of obtaining secret government documents from a power official and paying $245,000 in bribes. *AP*

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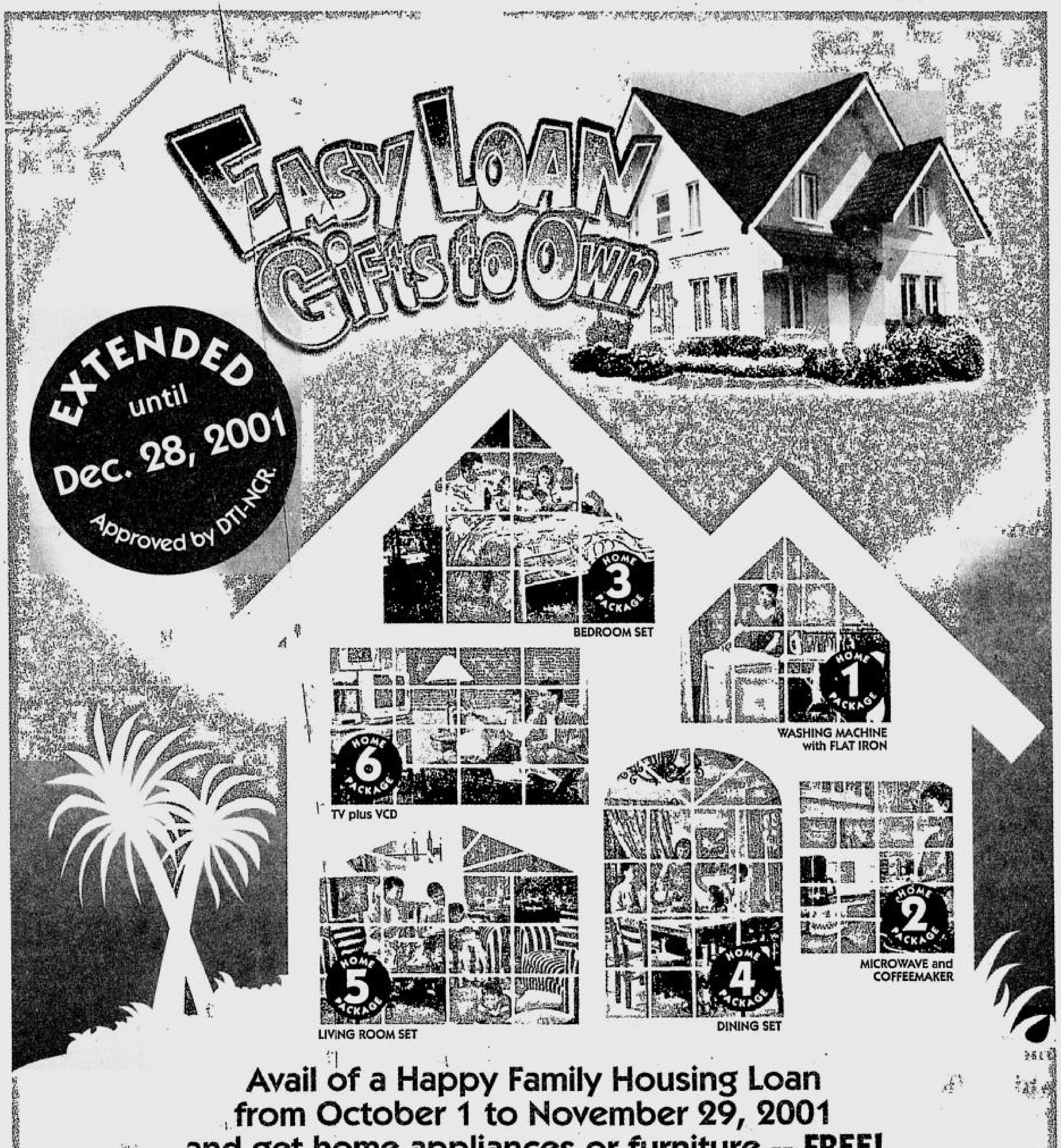

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AFFORDABLE low, low rates

PROMO MECHANICS

1. Book a Happy Family Housing Loan from October 1 to November 29, 2001 (even those with previously approved but unavailed applications are qualified).
2. To qualify for the promo, purpose of loan should be any of the following:
   2.1 Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Town House or Condominium
   2.2 House Construction
   2.3 Home Renovation
   2.4 Re-financing of existing Loans with other banks
   2.5 Multi-purpose Loan
3. This offer is valid in the Greater Metro Manila Area as well as those covered by the BPI Family Bank Business Centers.
4. The amount of booked "Easy Loan Gifts to Own" housing loan is equivalent to a Home Package which corresponds to certain appliances or furniture sets:

Housing Loan Amount	Easy Loan Gift Package
₱ 400,000 to ₱ 1,999,999.99	Washing Machine with Flat Iron
₱ 2M to ₱ 3,999,999.99	Microwave Oven and Coffeemaker
₱ 4M to ₱ 5,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
₱ 6M to ₱ 7,999,999.99	Dining Set
₱ 8M to ₱ 9,999,999.99	Living Room Set
₱ 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

5. Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.
6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
7. Redemption of prizes is until February 28, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.
11. All employees of BPI UNIBANK, its subsidiaries and its advertising agency are disqualified from joining the promo.
12. In the event of lost claim certificate, rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
13. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
14. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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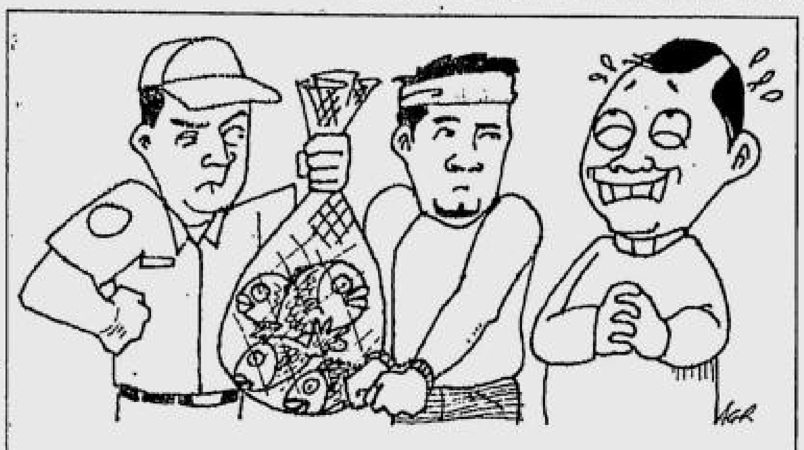


Priest fined ₱2,000 after admitting he 'sinned against man'

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

LOON, Bohol—A Roman Catholic priest was ordered to pay a fine by a municipal trial court last week after he pleaded guilty to a "sin against man"—illegal fishing.

In a Nov. 16 decision, Loon MTC Judge James Steward Ramon Hinalaloan directed Father Melchisedech Monreal to pay a fine of P2,000 for owning a fishing boat that was caught fishing within the municipal waters of Loon.

But the court meted a two-year jail term on Efren Mejares, the skipper of Monreal's fishing boat. The same charge against boat engineer Ismael Canillo was ordered dismissed.

The court also ordered the release of Monreal's fishing boat because the law only provides for the confiscation of its fish catch.

Monreal, a priest on nearby Sandingan Island, owns FB Juanito, which was impounded by members of the Tagbilaran-based Coastal Law Enforcement Council on Oct. 10 for fishing within the municipal waters of Loon and for using ring nets.

Commercial fishing and the use of active fishing gear are prohibited within 15 kilometers of the municipal coastline by the Fisheries Act, also known as Republic Act 8550.

The priest pleaded guilty during the arraignment of the charges last month. "I may have sinned in the eyes of man, but not in the eyes of God," Monreal was quoted as telling the court.

Loon Vice Mayor Raul Barbarona, a member of the CLEC in the 1st District of Bohol, said the conviction of Monreal was expected because it was clear that he committed a violation.

He, however, said that while the P2,000 penalty was "very small," it had driven the point that what the priest and his crewmembers did was against the law.

This is not the first time for commercial fishers to be convicted for violating fishery laws in Loon. Barbarona said there had been several fishermen who were apprehended in the past but were released after paying the fine.

Other commercial fishing boats also encroach on Bohol's municipal fishing grounds from Camiguin, Siquijor and Negros Island.

Monreal, however, is the first Loon-based fishing boat owner to be convicted by a Loon court.

Nur told to account for ₱4.8B in funds

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Outgoing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari must account for the P4.8 billion that the government funneled to the region for the economic development of Muslim Mindanao, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said.

An investigation of the ARMM funds could be "part of the total efforts of the government to hold Misuari accountable for his performance," Biazon told reporters here after the closing of the Senate National Economic Workshop on Sunday.

The investigation, he added, should include the "actions" the disgruntled governor had taken in the last few days, referring to the armed revolt by supporters of Misuari in the Moro National Liberation Front.

Misuari was suspended by President Macapagal-Arroyo and is now facing criminal charges following the revolt that killed about 100 people in Jolo.

"If it is proven that Misuari may have handled the funds (irregularly), then he must be held accountable," he added.

The issue, he said, should be resolved through "proper judicial processes."

The "mismanagement" of the ARMM by Misuari, according to Biazon, had "definitely" been a stumbling block to what the government wants done in Muslim Mindanao.

"Misuari may probably be a good rebel but a bad administrator," he said of the renegade leader.

The governor's arrest in Malaysia, he observed, would pave the way for the "more acceptable and viable implementation" of the joint development and peace agreements between the MNLF and the government.

He said the Council of 15, which ousted Misuari from the MNLF, must seize the occasion to mobilize and consolidate the MNLF for government's peace agenda in Mindanao.

"I think the Council of 15 must now mobilize and government must provide the conditions to ensure that this long road to peace since 1976 will not be disrupted," Biazon said.

Misuari did not run for reelection as ARMM governor following his failure to have the elections postponed.

But the government was bent on pushing through with the voting and was reported on doing everything it could to make sure the administration candidate wins as governor.

Reports in Davao City claimed that banana magnate Ebrahim Paglas III, who is running against Malacañang's gubernatorial candidate in yesterday's elections, was offered several government positions so he would withdraw from running for governor.

"Secretary (Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process) Eduardo Ermita told me to withdraw from the race and give way to Dr. Farouk Hussin," Paglas said.

He said Ermita conveyed to him several offers from President Macapagal-Arroyo, including an appointment as presidential assistant for flagship projects.

"I was also told I could become the Undersecretary of agriculture or chair of the Mindanao railway transport if I would withdraw from the race," Paglas, a former Maguindanao mayor, said.

But he rejected all the offers saying he was not after positions.

"I told Secretary Ermita that I am not running for the sake of having a government position, but that I want to help develop my region," Paglas told the INQUIRER.

He said he also relayed a message to the President that his decision to run against Hussin, one of the ranking leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front who ousted Misuari as chair, should not be construed as "hard-headedness."

Paglas, a staunch supporter of Ms Macapagal, said what he really wanted was to help the President develop the autonomous region, which has since became the basket case of the country.

"She's an economist and I am a businessman. We have a lot of things in common," he said.

Paglas said he also made an appeal to Ms Macapagal "to let the people choose who is the best for them."

Paglas, a scion of a prominent Maguindanao family that included the late Sen. Salipada Pendatun, contested with Hussin the endorsement of the administration.

But he was sidelined in favor of Hussin.

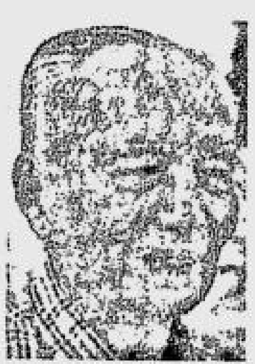
Paglas, also a nephew to Salamat Hashim of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, gained fame when he successfully converted his town, Datu Paglas, from a notorious bed of lawlessness to a vast agricultural production area.

When he was mayor, he started to talk with international donors and businessmen and initiated a banana plantation that now employs residents of Datu Paglas.

Paglas also became the first Muslim to win the Ten Outstanding Young Men award. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

FOLLOWERS of Nur Misuari return to a life ruled by the gun and display ther firepower during an MNLF congress in Jolo early this month.
VAL HANDUMON

Social justice award awaits founder of Huks



TARUC

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The founder and former leader of the guerrilla movement Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) leads recipients of this year's Most Outstanding Kapampangan awards.

The awards will be given to Luis Taruc, 88, and other Kapampangans by the provincial government here on Dec. 10 as part of the weeklong celebration of the Aldo Ning Kapampangan (Kapampangan Day.)

Board Member Joseller Guiao, chair of the awards committee, said the former Huk *supremo* will be awarded in the field of social justice.

Hukbalahap (People's Army Against Japan) was founded by Taruc on March 29, 1942. It was the biggest anti-Japanese guerrilla movement with 30,000 armed combatants until the 1950s.

The movement was responsible for freeing Pampanga and other areas of Central Luzon from the Japanese Army in 1945 without military support from the Americans.

However, instead of treating Huk guerrillas as allies, Gen. Douglas MacArthur set out to disarm them and treated them as insurgents.

Taruc and several other social reformists won in the congressional elections at the end of the war but they were not allowed to assume their posts.

The United States' Central Intelligence Agency launched a well-financed and massive psychological and military warfare against the Hukbalahap. There were allegations that the anti-Huk warfare included atrocities against villages meant to destroy the image and reputation of the group.

The group was fighting for the rights of farmers to own the lands they tilled.

At the height of the Huk rebellion in the 1950s, communist guerrillas were able to control most areas of Central Luzon. Under the Quirino administration, there were intelligence reports that the Huks were about to invade Manila, the seat of government.

On May 17, 1954, Taruc surrendered to the government after four months of negotiations with Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., who was then a journalist and emissary of President Ramon Magsaysay. Taruc was eventually sentenced to 12 years in prison.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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LOAN APPLICATION

400 teachers sued for fraud

BACOLOD CITY—About 400 public schoolteachers are facing charges of falsification of public documents and estafa before the Bacolod City Prosecutor's Office.

The Government Service Insurance System filed the charges against 432 teachers early this month for allegedly falsifying their pay slips that were attached to their loan application.

Jesusa Ruby Terruel, GSIS manager in Bacolod, said the pay slips were falsified to make it appear that the teachers' take home pay reached at least P2,000 so they could avail of the loan.

Bacolod City Prosecutor Vicente Acopan said he formed a three-man panel to conduct a "thorough investigation to ensure that no injustice will be committed to the teachers if indeed they are innocent."

He added he did not impose any deadline on the panel composed of Assistant Prosecutor Pacita Calvaz, Dennis Jarder and Anthony Tasilab.

But Acopan said he expected the investigation to take sometime because of the "voluminous documents" submitted by the GSIS.

The teachers have sought the dismissal of the case on the ground that they were not the ones responsible for falsifying the pay slips.

Provincial legal officer Rayfrando Diaz, who helped prepare the teachers' counter-affidavits, said three teachers, who were paid by the respondents to facilitate their loan application, could have been the ones who falsified the pay slips.

He added Gov. Joseph Marañon also planned to ask the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an investigation to determine who were behind the scam.

Diaz said he and the governor decided to help the teachers in their private capacity after the teachers sought their help following the filing of the charges.

Based on their meeting with the teachers, Diaz said each teacher reportedly paid P4,000 to three teachers to facilitate the early release of their loan with the GSIS.

Of the amount, Diaz said the teachers were told that the P3,000 would go to a ranking GSIS official to hasten the release of their loans.

The P1,000, he added, would be the payment of those facilitating the process. Diaz said the teachers never told these three persons to falsify their pay slips.

Diaz maintained that the 400 teachers could not have falsified the pay slips because they come from all over the province.

"There have to be some people offering their services to facilitate loans approaching them," he said. "It is a widespread and systematic job by people out to make a profit."

But Terruel said the teachers should identify the ranking GSIS official involved in the pay slip anomaly so she can file administrative charges against this person.
Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Slain Laguna town priest buried

TANZA, Cavite—Slain Mabitac parish priest Fr. Arsenio "Jun" Plata Jr. was buried yesterday in his hometown's cemetery amid cries for justice from at least 200 fellow priests from Laguna and Cavite and thousands of parishioners from the dioceses of San Pablo, Laguna and Imus, Cavite.

Fellow priests, nuns, friends, relatives and parishioners unashamedly cried or were misty-eyed when a funeral Mass was held for Plata at 2 p.m. at the jampacked Tanza Parish Church.

San Pablo Bishop Most Rev. Francisco San Diego, who has just recuperated from a knee surgery, celebrated the Mass.

Plata's fellow priests in Laguna also came in full force to show their solidarity with the slain priest.

There are 158 diocesan and religious priests and two bishops in the diocese of San Pablo, according to the 2000 Catholic Directory.

First cousin and fellow priest Fr. Nonel Plata, who also came here earlier, told the INQUIRER that their townmates were demanding for justice for Father Jun.

He said most of the priests want authorities to go beyond the robbery angle in their investigation of Father Jun's killing.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 21° Lo 11°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 17°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 18°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/27/01

ROUNDUP

2 killed in ambush

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur—Two men were killed while two others were wounded after they were ambushed by armed men in Barangay Balaleng here Saturday. Police identified the fatalities as George Pizarro, 26, and Bonifacio Taasin, both of Barangay Balaleng, while the injured were cousins Adornel and David Artienda. Senior Insp. Juan Collo, Bantay police director, said the victims, who were aboard a tricycle, were on their way home when they were attacked. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Anti-war coalition

ANGELES CITY—About 1,500 members of various cause-oriented groups marched in front of the Clark Special Economic Zone's main gate last Friday after launching the Justice Not War Coalition. The coalition opposes the government's all-out support to the US-led military strikes on Afghanistan. The organizers of the coalition include Roman Polintan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Gitnang Luson, and Jose Suarez, former Constitutional Commission member.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tax on lahar

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Gov. Manuel Lapid has imposed an "extraction tax" of P80 per truckload of lahar and sand hauled out of the province. Lapid imposed the new tax based on a recent ordinance approved by the provincial board increasing the quarry fee here from P40 to P80 per truckload of lahar and sand. Provincial administrator Benalfre Galang said the new tax also covers desilting and scraping operations along riverbeds in Pampanga.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Group issues guide on rape prevention, handling of cases

By Debra Jane Magallon
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—After two years of research and discussions, a group advocating the legal protection of women has completed a training manual that seeks to stop or prevent the sexual assault of women and children.

Just recently, the Women's Legal Bureau Inc. (WLB) presented to the public the manual, titled "Addressing Rape in the Legal System," a multidisciplinary training guide that provides holistic approaches in order to understand better the crime of rape.

Since the victim is just as complex as the crime, the publication exposes a list of myths that pervade the Filipinos' current views on rape, and correct these misconceptions to come up with a scientific, though sensitive, understanding of rape.

Developed by the WLB and a technical working group composed of practitioners from different disciplines, the manual stresses the need to address the alarming increase of reported cases of rape and other forms of sexual abuse of women and children.

Participants

Among those who actively participated in the project were members of the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja). Ameurfina Herrera, the academy's former chancellor, was quoted as saying she was convinced that it was part of Philja's mandate to give judicial training to officials of the court.

The WLB wanted to effect changes in the legal system's doctrines and processes, and to make uniform the system's response to rape cases.

The manual will also be instrumental in addressing the need and demand for services of victims or survivors of rape.

Through it, advocates from the legal sector can work to rectify the isolation and insulation of present laws with regard to recognizing women's rights as human rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

Hoping for changes

Although the manual's scope is limited to working within the country's legal framework and the insufficient coverage of issues and problems affecting children, the WLB is hoping to see significant social changes.

The manual was presented here and in Davao City last month by WLB officers and personnel led by Prof. Maureen Pagaduan, WLB executive director.

To be officially distributed in January, the publication will be particularly useful to judges, prosecutors, private and public lawyers, police personnel, National Bureau of Investigation agents and investigators, jail wardens, examiners and social workers.

The guidebook contains three parts with independent modules. Part 1 discusses the framework and overall perspective of rape. One learns about the gravity of the rape as a serious political and socio-cultural problem with dire effects on the victims and high costs to society.

The chapter presents the different types of rape and belies the myth of a standard response among victims after they are attacked.

Protocols

Chapter 2 tackles rape, society, law and justice. One learns the protocols that the justice system must impose concerning investigation, handling of evidence and the court process.

The WLB aims to help prevent situations that can bring trauma to victim-survivors during court proceedings through the guidelines laid out in the manual.

The last part talks about what advocates can further do in the fight against rape. It provides training materials, methodologies and techniques.

In the end, advocacy would spell reforms in society, as well as in the justice and legal systems, the organizers said.

Overall manual editor, Evalyn Ursua, is a practicing lawyer and women's rights advocate. She cofounded the WLB in 1990.

Prof. Purificacion Quisumbing represented Philja in the project. She heads its International Law and Human Rights Department.

Practitioners from the fields of psychiatry, clinical psychology and forensic medicine also took part in the research and writing of the manual.

They are Dr. June Caridad Pagaduan-Lopez and Dr. Ma. Rosanna de Guzman, who are both diplomates of the Philippine Psychiatric Association; Dr. Leticia Peqana-Ho, a clinical psychologist and current dean of the College of Education of the University of the Philippines; and Dr. Racquel Fortune, an expert in forensic medicine.

Pinatubo houses sold illegally

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Officials of the Department of Budget and Management-Task Force Mt. Pinatubo Commission (DBM-TFMPC) have warned the public against buying houses in government resettlement centers from unscrupulous persons.

The warning came after a local daily reported that an "Agaw-Bahay" syndicate had been illegally taking over and selling houses to non-Pinatubo victims, particularly at the Pandacaqui resettlement center in Mexico town.

The houses are allegedly being sold between P30,000 and P50,000 each.

Flordelita Arrozal, DBM-TFMPC deputy executive director and operations director, said people may call the agency's hotline numbers to report the illegal selling of government-built housing units. The numbers are (045) 599-3195, 0919-832-7309 and 0917-836-1522.

She said the agency's site management teams had also sent teams to various resettlement centers in this province to closely monitor and stop the illegal selling of houses.

MT. PINATUBO resettlement area. FILE PHOTO

Arrozal said the DBM-TFMPC would prosecute those involved in the alleged scam. She said the agency had not authorized any person to act as sales agents of the government.

She said some former Mount Pinatubo Commission members, the predecessor of the DBM-TFMPC, are being investigated for allegedly awarding housing units to their relatives who are not lahar victims and therefore not qualified as beneficiaries of the housing project.

The DBM-TFMPC is an agency under the supervision of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Arrozal said the HUDCC had given the DBM-TFMPC a fresh mandate to re-validate 18,000 government housing units involved in questionable occupancy cases.

The alleged scam comes on the heels of the controversy over whether or not victims of lahar and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo should pay for the housing units.

Lahar victims who were occupying units in the housing project demanded that they be given the houses for free, but the government planned to implement the usufruct scheme in the housing project.

Under the usufruct scheme, lahar victims would be required to pay their housing units in installments.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Baguio braces for holidays

BAGUIO CITY—In preparation for President Macapagal-Arroyo's long Christmas break here, police officials will implement for the first time the number scheme and truck ban to ease traffic congestion in the city.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, said they would give priority to the traffic plan since Baguio has 14,000 jeepneys while nearby La Trinidad, Benguet, has 17,000 jeepneys plying the business district here everyday.

He said the scheme is also in preparation for the influx of tourists during the Christmas holidays.

Aliño said they have imposed the truck ban on Marcos Highway since Nov. 22 because the construction of the three-kilometer flyover in the Baguio stretch of the highway has been causing tremendous traffic in the area.

"It would take motorists at least three hours to get out of the Marcos Highway. Trucks should be banned early in the morning and during late afternoon to prevent such (a) problem," he said.

Aliño said with the new scheme, they are expecting to reduce traffic density by 3,000 vehicles early next year.

He said at least one-sixth of La Trinidad's jeepneys would be off the road everyday and this would tremendously reduce traffic in the area.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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US hostage: Have mercy

(From page A1)

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said he was open for negotiation. He did not say on camera if the negotiation involved money, but it was understood.

As Gracia put it, "they only want one thing, and that is something our family can't give."

The Abu Sayyaf is insisting that $2 million be paid for the release of the Americans. But both the Philippine and US governments maintain a no-ransom policy.

Later, while I was waiting for the two men who were to guide me back to Isabela proper, Gracia asked Sabaya: "Can she take me home with her?"

Sabaya, who was seated beside the two of us, smiled and said: "OK."

She looked into my eyes. We both knew he was only joking.

In total darkness

It was Saturday when I traveled to Maluso in Basilan. From there I walked for four hours in total darkness with a guide who knew the terrain like the back of his hand.

We got to where the Abu Sayyaf was holding the Burnhams at almost 10 p.m. It was raining when we entered the makeshift camp.

I first met with Sabaya and the other Abu Sayyaf commanders. Sabaya told me I would be able to interview the hostages the following day. I was given the strict instruction to leave the area before 12 noon.

During the interview, only the Burnhams were allowed to speak on camera. Deborah Yap, the last Filipino hostage and who was taken from Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2, was told not to show her face.

The Burnhams also spoke about Guillermo Sobero, another American hostage from the Palawan resort and whom the Abu Sayyaf beheaded in July as a "gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gracia described Sobero, who was from California, as "a caring man" who gathered firewood for them.

Addressing Sobero's children, Martin said: "Your father loved you very much. He talked about you all the time."

I have interviewed almost all of the hostages of the Abu Sayyaf in the last 10 years. But there was something different in this interview with the Burnhams.

They made me cry. I felt their pain.

The enemy

Gracia does not view her Abu Sayyaf captors with hatred.

"They could be my kids," she said during the hour-long interview. "I like them, but the reality is they are the enemy."

"We are not happy here," Martin said. "We want to go home. We want to go home while we still have the strength."

Both of them have lost weight. By how much is uncertain.

"I used to be good in estimating weight loss, but not anymore," said Martin, whose left hand was freed from being tied to a tree for the duration of the interview.

"We are tired," he said. "We want to go home and see our kids.

I am not as strong as I used to be. I don't know if we can still last long."

Gracia was very emotional. At one point she said: "We know we are just ordinary people, but I hope somebody out there cares to know how we are and wants to see us alive and released as soon as possible."

The Armed Forces has deployed nine battalions to Basilan to destroy the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the hostages.

The Burnhams said that they had experienced more than 10 encounters between the military and their captors, and that each time, they feared that the next bullet would hit them.

"It takes me days to recover every time I hear a twig, thinking it's a gunshot," Gracia said.

She described their kidnapping as "a tragedy."

"I remember when Jeffrey Schilling (was kidnapped), it went on month after month and I asked Martin why Jeffrey Schilling was still in there," she recalled. "And Martin said, 'Well, they are saying he is not really a hostage. He walked in of his own accord.'"

"Well," she added, suppressing a sob, "we didn't walk in here; we are truly hostages and it's been six months. And if nine months roll around, what will they say about us?"

Schilling, also American, was rescued by the military in April after eight months in the captivity of the Abu Sayyaf. He had gone to the bandit camp in Jolo with his wife Ivy, a Filipino Muslim related to one of the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Fasting

The Abu Sayyaf is observing the holy Muslim period of Ramadan and its members are fasting.

The hostages are allowed to eat, but the problem is that there is very little food for both captors and captives.

I did not bring food for myself. Gracia offered me a root crop, *kamoteng kahoy*, when I arrived. But I was so tired walking, I preferred to sleep than eat.

Earlier, the Burnhams received a food package from the Manila office of the New Tribes Mission, to which they belong.

But at the time of the interview, only a bottle of peanut butter and a can of soda crackers had been left for the Burnhams.

"We are missionaries. We can't afford to eat while they starve," Gracia said.

The Burnhams have been based in the Philippines for 15 years. They were at the Dos Palmas Resort to celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary when they were kidnapped along with Sobero and 17 Filipinos.

The other hostages were freed or released reportedly after payment of ransom. ***With a Reuters report***

Comelec 'war' is the big story

(From page A1)

port for duty due to security concerns and conflicting orders from the Comelec head office.

Four of the seven Comelec commissioners issued a resolution to postpone the exercise in Sulu due to the anticipated "massive disenfranchisement" resulting from a last-minute regrouping of polling precincts.

The resolution, which was signed by Commissioners Luz Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier, was finalized on Sunday night and forwarded to Zamboanga City.

"This is good as carried," said Tancangco, commissioner-in-charge of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan, in a memorandum to regional officials.

Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason, who are identified with Benipayo's camp, did not sign the resolution as they were out of town on official business.

The order was, however, overruled by Benipayo, who gave the go-signal to push through with the polls.

Citing technicalities, Benipayo told regional officials that the resolution was not binding because it was not promulgated en banc.

He also insisted that there was "no valid reason" for the postponement as there were no reports of terrorism or violence in the area, which was attacked last week by followers of ousted ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari.

Turnout

In a press briefing yesterday, Benipayo said the heavy turnout of voters was his "best argument" against the four commissioners' claim that the reclustering of precincts would cause disenfranchisement.

As of 1:35 p.m. yesterday, an 80- to 90-percent turnout was reported in Sulu, 60-percent in Maguindanao, 50- to 70-percent in Basilan, and 70-percent in Lanao del Sur. A "heavy" turnout was also expected in Tawi-Tawi and Marawi, Benipayo claimed.

But the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said the turnout could be less than 60 percent.

Joseph Fernandez, Namfrel-ARMM coordinator, said that as of 1:30 p.m., the voter turnout was still below 50 percent. "This is the trend, a very low turnout," he said.

Benipayo said the resolution was "not valid because it violates the Comelec rules (for its issuance)."

"I am the chairman, and I was not even notified," he said.

But Tancangco said it was "impossible" for Benipayo not to have known about the order because a standby resolution for the postponement had been discussed in the en banc last week.

"Now, he's very particular about discussion in the en banc and the technical matters, but when he decides on his own, he does not cite that," Tancangco said.

"There will be a lot of legal questions here. What we fear is the post-election tension when losing candidates will be questioning the re-clustering and the holding of polls," she said.

Tancangco, who visited Sulu two weeks ago and informed the BEI there that the clustering in the May 14 polls would be followed, said she has received a barrage of calls from candidates and the board because of the re-clustering in 10 precincts.

The affected towns were Jolo, Indanan, Kalingalang Calauang, Panglima Estino, Parang, Patikul, Talipao, Panamao, Luuk and Maimbung.

Sulu situation

Despite the confusion, the provincial board of canvassers reported "a very high" turnout.

Tancangco had earlier justified her move, saying a predictable low voter turnout was due to the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. She had claimed that her move was based on a recommendation from Comelec field officers.

But poll officials in Sulu denied recommending a suspension of the elections.

Renato Magbuntay, chair of the provincial board of canvassers, said the Comelec proceeded with the elections because Tancangco's resolution lacked basis. "It was not officially promulgated," he said.

Col. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said he did not see Tancangco's justifications as "truthful conclusions," saying the military is under full control of the Sulu mainland.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the military's Southern Command, said, "we did not expect it would be this peaceful. Of course, there were some incidents, but these were very negligible."

More than 7,000 troops were deployed in all five ARMM provinces days before the actual voting.

Attacks

About 30 suspected Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members loyal to Misuari simultaneously attacked four military detachments in Buldon, Maguindanao, at 12:30 a.m. yesterday.

Mortars and rocket-propelled grenades rained over four outposts of the 3rd IB in the villages of Mataya and Kabayuan, according to Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamco, chief of the 6th Infantry Division.

"They wanted really to disrupt the conduct of elections," Kyamco told Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp.

Thirty minutes later, three explosions rocked Miramar Elementary School in Parang, Maguindanao.

No one was hurt in the explosions that, according to the school principal, also damaged two classrooms and a canteen.

Just as the voters were preparing to cast their votes in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, a 60-mm mortar bomb landed at the town's public market. No one was hurt, the military said.

In Malabang, Lanao del Sur, two homemade bombs were found inside a ballot box at the Matling Arabic School in Barangay Matling yesterday morning.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, 4th Infantry Division spokesperson, said experts defused the bombs.

In Basilan and Sulu, Abu Sayyaf bandits and followers of Misuari were silent during the balloting.

Lamitan Mayor Inocencio Ramos said the relatively "calm" situation has also inspired people to go out and vote. "This time, more Christians came out to participate," he said.

Cheating raps

Independent gubernatorial bet Ebrahim Paglas III alleged that Malacañang was into cheating to ensure the victory of its candidate, Dr. Parouk Hussin.

Paglas cited a case in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, where at least 12 boxes containing 2,400 ballots that bore the names of Hussin and his running mate, Mahid Mutilan, were discovered shortly before the actual balloting started.

The 36 public school teachers manning the precincts in Tapian, Kusiong, Badak and Linek in Datu Odin Sinsuat, where the filled-up ballots were discovered, staged a walkout.

"We do not want to become instruments of cheating," Acub Duloan, chair of the local Board of Election Inspectors, said.

Reynaldo Pescadera, provincial election officer of Sulu, said ballots tampered in favor of Hussin and Mutilan were also discovered in at least 14 precincts in Indanan town.

He said the Comelec was still determining who were behind the tampered ballots.

Money matters

Paglas said the administration was very sure of winning since the start because it had already put in place measures, including bribing voters.

He accused Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong of distributing cash to leaders in Maguindanao to get votes for Hussin and Mutilan.

Datumanong, Lakas-NUCD-UMDP vice president for Mindanao, said money was indeed distributed but this was intended for party leaders.

He said that political parties, under Comelec rules, are allowed to spend in support of their candidates. "These would be for our watchers and other officials," he said. ***With reports from Julie Alipala, Alexander M. Young, Charlie C. Señase, Edwin O. Fernandez, Butch D. Enerio and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and INQUIRER wires***

US Marines land . . .

(From page A1)

the military kept secret. The Peleliu is the lead ship of the attack force, known as Task Force 58, with six ships and more than 9,000 Marines and Navy sailors.

"In short order, you'll have a thousand-plus Marines in the backyard of the Taliban within two days. And on top of that, we're going to start bringing in equipment," Col. Peter Miller, task force chief of staff, said ahead of the start of the action.

There were more than 4,000 Marines in the expeditionary units taking part in the landing, which began with helicopter flights direct from the ship to the air base.

Two Marine Expeditionary Units, the Camp Pendleton, California-based 15th and the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina-based 26th were combined into Task Force 58 based on ships within 18 km off the Arabian Sea coast.

Such Marine Corps units are trained for combat, evacuations, humanitarian aid and other missions.

The deployment of Marines near Kandahar marks a perilous new phase of that conflict that until now had focused on US air strikes backing up the opposition Northern Alliance—plus limited ground missions by American special forces fanned out in small units across Afghanistan.

Fierce bombardment

Kandahar, the Taliban's home base and spiritual center, has come under fierce bombardment since the US-led military campaign began Oct. 7, and the Taliban have vowed to fight to the death rather than abandon the city.

In the last three weeks, they have lost their grip on three-quarters of Afghanistan, plus the capital, Kabul.

Loud explosions rocked the area around Kandahar overnight and early Monday, with bright flares illuminating the night sky.

Tribal leaders said their fighters, backed by US bombardment, had pushed to within 8 km of the city.

Most of the top Taliban leaders are holed up in and around Kandahar. Tribal leaders tried to negotiate a handover of the city, but the talks failed.

In Kunduz, which fell Sunday after a two-week siege, the Northern Alliance was trying to consolidate its hold on the city. Soldiers went house-to-house looking for holdout Taliban and foreign troops, getting into occasional firefights as they went.

The victors took more prisoners, adding to the thousands who surrendered in the last two days. As three men in turbans were placed into a pickup truck, hands bound behind their backs with dirty rags, children crowded around and taunted them, yelling "Talib! Talib!"

Uprising

Pro-Taliban foreign fighters who surrendered or were captured during the siege of Kunduz staged Sunday's uprising at a prison fortress outside Mazar-e-Sharif.

The prisoners—about 300 Chechens, Pakistanis and Arabs—seized weapons and turned on their guards, triggering fighting so fierce that US air strikes were called in to quell it.

The Northern Alliance said most of the prisoners were killed, but a hard core of holdouts on Monday was still battling alliance troops with rockets when they ran out of ammunition for their guns.

A fighter named Massood who witnessed Monday's fighting said several dozen prisoners were firing rockets at Northern Alliance troops.

The death toll among the prisoners was undetermined but appeared high. The Northern Alliance said most of the prisoners were killed, and estimates of how many had been inside ran from 300 to as high as 800.

The prisoners, who surrendered Saturday from Kunduz, were being held to determine their ties to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

US military officials said the prisoners smuggled weapons under their tunics and seized an ammo depot. After several hours, about 500 Northern Alliance reinforcements arrived, backed up by US air strikes.

Alex Perry, a journalist for Time magazine who was inside the fort during the uprising, told an editor that 800 people were involved in the fighting, and that an American soldier was killed. ***AP***

Senators 'rescue' Gloria accuser

(From page A1)

might want to show up in Senate inquiries in the future," Sotto said.

At the BID, Dizon told reporters that based on the bureau's records, Marcelo was an overstaying tourist. But because he was an American citizen, Marcelo had no right to set up telecommunication firms in the country.

"We are not arresting him. We just need to ask him several questions. This has been blown out of proportion," Dizon said, adding the BID was actually giving Marcelo a chance to clear his name.

Dizon said the mission order was prompted by "anonymous complaints" about the status of Marcelo's stay in the country. The unsigned letters poured into the BID early this month, he said.

But he insisted that the inquiry into Marcelo's citizenship was not ordered by Malacañang or that it was a form of harassment against the President's accuser.

"This is our own initiative because we have received numerous complaints about him," Dizon stressed.

"A tourist like him cannot engage in gainful occupation. He should be spending his dollars going around the country," he added.

After Marcelo refused to go to the BID for questioning, Dizon said that Marcelo will again be "invited" to the BID "soon."

Dizon said he has already referred the matter to the BID's legal department, which may invoke the bureau's authority to detain Marcelo if he continued refusing to cooperate.

Two passports

At the Senate, Marcelo admitted that he was a holder of two passports—Philippine and American.

He said that he was a naturalized American who later renounced his US citizenship and reacquired Philippine citizenship in a court proceeding.

But the change in his citizenship status has apparently not been conveyed to the US government since, according to immigration agents, Marcelo was still using his American passport when he traveled to the Philippines.

BID records show that Marcelo, a naturalized American, arrived in the Philippines on Feb. 20, 2000.

Marcelo said he was using his American passport just for "convenience" and insisted that he was not guilty of dual citizenship since he had already reacquired his Philippine citizenship.

His lawyer, Victor de la Serna, said Marcelo could not be guilty of dual citizenship. He added, however, that having dual passports was punishable under US laws.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Palace had no hand in Marcelo's arrest.

"The Bureau of Immigration has ordered the arrest of Mr. Marcelo in compliance with its mandate to enforce our immigration laws," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said foreigners are prohibited from owning more than 40 percent of a telecommunications company. Marcelo owns 80-85 percent of PCCI and APC Wireless.

Tiglao also said Marcelo violated the Anti-Dummy Law when he failed to disclose his citizenship in his companies' incorporation papers filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"The President was vindicated," Tiglao said. "The (sworn) statement submitted by Mr. Marcelo actually speaks for itself."

Palace jerks

But a fuming Senate blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo lashed out at Malacañang officials for putting up a lackluster defense of the President.

"These jerks in Malacañang don't know how to defend the President," Arroyo said as he showed Senate reporters documents to prove that Marcelo may have only been out to shake down Ms Macapagal.

The documents showed that PCCI only had a paid-up capital of P562,000.

"It is very obvious that he only intends to sell the franchise afterwards, especially if such a telecommunications clearinghouse would have a projected annual revenue of $1.1 billion," Arroyo charged.

"For how can you operate a nationwide interconnection network with only P562,500 as capital? That's the main reason why this franchise should never have been granted," he added.

APC has a paid-up capital of P1.187 million.

Arroyo compared PCCI's paid-up capital with that of Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise Inc. (Cure) which applied for and was granted a similar franchise as PCCI. Cure had a paid-up capital of P7.5 million; another franchise, Solid Broadband Corp., had P20 million.

Arroyo also released a report he received from Senate blue ribbon director general Emiliar Pueyo, informing him that Marcelo had declined to receive the summons sent to him at least three times, starting on Oct. 9.

According to Pueyo, two agents of the National Bureau of Investigation tried to serve the summons on Oct. 18 but were informed that Marcelo "had already vacated his rented unit . . . and left no forwarding address."

Then, on Nov. 13, Pueyo herself tried to contact Marcelo on his phone.

"Luckily, Mr. Marcelo answered . . .and he was asked to submit his sworn statement for the Nov. 14 hearing (of the committee)," she said.

"From Oct. 9 to today, that's about 45 days. Why only now?" Arroyo asked.

Arroyo said the committee would not "be usurped and used" just to accommodate Marcelo's allegations.

Immunity waiver

At the Senate, Marcelo challenged the President to waive her immunity from suit.

"I think she (President) has immunity. I think she should subject herself to trial by waiving her immunity from suit," Marcelo said.

Asked if he would file an impeachment case against the President, Marcelo said he was still conferring with his lawyer.

But Pimentel said the Senate would not necessarily take Marcelo's allegations hook, line and sinker. He said the chamber will still have to study Marcelo's affidavit and would not necessarily probe the President just because Marcelo implicated her. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Marcelo: 'I can take entire Macapagal government down'

(From page A1)

lunch with the INQUIRER two Saturdays ago at a Pasig hotel.

"There's no going back. They left me with no other choice," a determined Marcelo said.

A few steps away, his bodyguards sat facing away from him with eyes scouring the hotel café and moving in a box pattern around him every time he stood up to take supposedly confidential calls on his mobile phone.

"They can take my office and even my company's name but once they use the technology I developed, they'll be facing suits left and right," Marcelo said.

The technology is designed to be an access center to handle the traffic of all telecommunications networks, with an income projection of at least $1 billion a year. Marcelo secured a patent for it.

"After they failed, they were not content to see me close shop. They also stripped me of all my contracts with the private sector and the government. That's too much," Marcelo said.

Marcelo was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration, whom he has accused of a conspiracy to wrest control over his surefire money-making firm, the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) *(See related story on Page A1).*

"I'm just a plain businessman who knows how to innovate. I don't force others to do business with me," was how Marcelo described himself.

Over lunch, Marcelo shared what would be later contained in his 12-page sworn statement about the telecommunications controversy which he submitted before the Senate blue ribbon committee yesterday.

Telecom expert

Marcelo was a graduate of marketing management from the Ateneo de Naga University in 1970.

A father of two girls and a boy, Marcelo is somebody new in the public eye.

But in the telecommunications industry, Marcelo is a known personality and recognized by his peers as an expert in "networking and fund facilitation," according to a source in the telecom industry.

He has served as president or director in seven telecom companies in the last seven years.

A brief resumé of Marcelo described him as someone with "extensive training on area investment promotions, integrated area development, sales and distribution of electronic equipment, network systems products and services for landline and wireless telephony.

From 1970 to 1976, he was "self-employed" as a distributor of agricultural products of Bayer, Hoeschst, Union Carbide and Planters in the Bicol region.

He later became "project manager" of the Bicol River Basin Development Program and was in charge for agribusiness development and industrialization between 1977 to 1980.

Marcelo was again "self-employed" between 1981 to 1994 as owner and president of Pan Pacific International Inc., a telecommunications trading company.

In 1994, Marcelo set up the Phoenix Wireless Group Inc., in the Asian region, identifying potential telecom projects for possible joint ventures with the governments of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He was vice president for business development in the Asia-Pacific region for Phoenix Wireless-Asia from 1994 to 1996.

From July 1996 to November 1997, he was recruited by multi-national telecom giant, Lucent Technologies Philippines Inc. He started as sales director of its network systems and rose to become Lucent's country president in 1997.

But only five months later, Marcelo moved to become managing director for Flour Daniel Telecom between November 1997 to May 1998. He supervised sales, business development and operation or wireless and wireline telecom projects.

He left Flour Daniel when he decided to put up his own company, the International Consultancy Group, Inc. where he has been a director since September, 1998.

From June 1998 to the present, Marcelo has been the president of the International Telecom Consultancy & Services Inc., whose core group was to form the now very controversial PCCI and APC Wireless Interface Network.

Dichaves consultant

The two companies applied for congressional franchises during the Estrada administration. Their franchise bills were transmitted to Malacañang on March 20, 2001. By that time President Macapagal had come to power.

Marcelo admitted he was a consultant for Jaime Dichaves, a big player in the telecoms trade during the abbreviated term of his friend, ousted president Joseph Estrada.

"But Dichaves has no financial interest in PCCI and APC. I am not anybody's dummy," Marcelo said.

A source said Marcelo spent some time in the US where he learned about the telecom industry, although no specific period can be immediately ascertained.

The source said that Marcelo acquired US citizenship in 1995 but renounced it two years later in 1997.

"I was in fact in the US when the controversy broke out into the open. I was attending a wedding with some administration personalities," Marcelo said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

'All we want is to live in peace'

GAYA ISLAND, Malaysia—When Abdul Kadil fled his home in Jolo nearly 20 years ago during a Moro separatist insurgency, he found peace in neighboring Malaysia.

But Abdul, who has settled in Gaya Island off Sabah with more than 2,000 other immigrants, now worries that recent fighting back home could threaten the tranquility.

"All we want is to live in peace, so our children can grow up without picking up a gun," the 40-year-old fisherman said, sitting with other men gathered outside a makeshift mosque. "If violence comes here, where will we go?"

The violence from the insurgency, which has claimed an estimated 120,000 lives in the past three decades, never seems very far away from Sabah, a few hours' boat ride from some of the bloodiest battlegrounds in southern Philippines.

But trouble moved closer last weekend, when Nur Misuari, former leader of the largest separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front, fled to Sabah as a fugitive after breaking a peace deal with Manila that had made him governor of an autonomous Muslim region.

Misuari and six of his senior aides were taken into custody by Malaysian authorities, who had brokered the 1996 peace deal. They voiced exasperation that Misuari had failed to keep it by ordering his loyalists to attack Philippine army posts last week. Misuari hoped to derail elections that would choose his successor.

The fighting has gone badly for Misuari's men, and Malaysia has vowed to send him back, though it is unclear when. Arresting him highlights a deepening cooperation between the Philippines and Malaysia on security.

Sabah, the Malaysian state on Borneo island closest to the Philippines, was once a hotbed of separatist support and now has about 600,000 Filipinos. There are fears that Misuari supporters here could try to prevent him from being deported.

Villagers insist that everyone on Gaya is peace loving and that they would not have left the Philippines had they not been weary of war.

"We stay here because we are satisfied with how the Malaysian government treats us," said Allaji Totong, 67. "They let our people work, they gave us wood to build our mosque. Life here is 100 times easier compared to where we came from."

But it's not completely hassle-free. Residents, mostly poor fishermen and laborers, say police search the shoreline by speedboat every day for illegal immigrants, whom many Malaysians believe contribute to crime and social ills.

Last year, security forces backed by helicopters conducted a surprise raid on Gaya and evicted more than 900 families without proper documents.

Most Filipinos here nevertheless laud Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government for keeping the country more prosperous than most of its neighbors. They believe they will be safe if they abide by the law.

"Mahathir is a good man," says Alsarif Taha, 17, who was born in Sabah to immigrant parents. *AP*

US firm clones human embryo

(From page A1)

woman. They had also caused an unfertilized human egg to grow and divide into an early embryo without fertilizing it—in a process known as parthenogenesis (the Greek word for "virgin birth").

Before the medical breakthrough, a human embryo can only develop inside a woman's body once a male sperm fertilizes her egg. Eight weeks after conception, the embryo develops into a fetus.

Even so, ACT scientists took pains to stress that they did not intend to create ranks of genetically identical babies.

"We believe that reproductive cloning has potential risks to both mother and fetus that make it unwarranted at this time," the scientists said in an article to be published in Scientific American magazine next January.

"And we support a restriction on cloning for reproductive purposes until the safety and ethical issues surrounding it are resolved."

In conducting the experiments, ACT had aimed to take a piece of skin and grow a new heart for a heart patient, or brain tissue for an Alzheimer's patient, or vital pancreatic cells for a diabetes patient.

It took the scientists a total of 71 eggs from seven volunteers before they could generate the first cloned early embryo.

The egg began dividing as if it had been fertilized by a sperm, but was stopped from becoming a baby—at the stage at which it was still a ball of cells.

The same technology has been used to clone sheep, cattle and monkeys.

Criticisms

But Sunday's announcement quickly drew criticism from those who feared the experiments would lead to the cloning of a human being.

A White House aide was quoted by CNN as saying that President George W. Bush "is 100 percent opposed to any cloning of human embryos."

The US Congress has moved to outlaw all human cloning. A proposed law is under consideration at the Senate where lawmakers expressed alarm at ACT's announcement.

Reaction from the Vatican was muted, with Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, the Holy See's secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, saying there was a need for further information.

Bertone said that if a stem cell was extracted and added to an egg to genetically reprogram it, creating an embryo which was later destroyed, "then that is true human cloning, and that must be condemned."

But if ACT created stem cells from other, nonembryonic stem cells, "then we are talking about a veritable scientific achievement that we could see as ethically positive," he said.

Source of stem cells

ACT said it had made a six-cell embryo clone—a tiny ball of cells invisible to the naked eye. The cells could then be used as a source of stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are a kind of master cell that can grow into any kind of cell in the body.

"Scientifically, biologically, the entities we are creating are not an individual. They're only cellular life," Michael West, ACT chief executive officer, told NBC's Meet the Press.

ACT vice president Joe Cibelli, who led the research, said his team had applied classic cloning technology using a human egg and a cumulus cell, a kind of cell used to nurture developing eggs.

They removed the DNA from the egg cell and replaced it with DNA from the nucleus of the adult cell.

'Virgin conception'

ACT also reported a second breakthrough. Researchers took a human egg cell and got it to progress to the embryo stage without any kind of fertilization, either by sperm or outside genetic material.

The process is known as parthenogenesis, and it occurs in insects and microbes but not naturally in higher animals.

Eggs usually dump half their genetic material but if gathered early enough, contain a full set of genes, the researchers said.

"You hesitate to describe it as a virgin birth, but it is sort of in that vein," said John Rennie, editor in chief of Scientific American magazine.

"That is an amazing accomplishment in its own right and, like cloning, something that people once thought was impossible in mammals."

Stem cells are valued by scientists because they could be used to treat many diseases, including cancer and AIDS.

They can come from adults but the most flexible sources so far seem to be very early embryos. Such embryos, usually left over from attempts to make test-tube babies, are destroyed in the process and many people oppose it.

President Bush decided earlier this year that federal funds could be used for research on embryonic stem cells, but only on those that had been created before August.

When combined with cloning technology, the hope is that patients could be the source of their own tissue or organs, a technology known as therapeutic cloning.

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) supported ACT's research.

"Those of us who have testified before Congress on BIO's behalf regarding this issue have stated repeatedly that reproductive cloning is untested, unsafe and morally repugnant," BIO president Carl Feldbaum said in a statement.

"BIO does, however, support therapeutic applications of cloning of cells and tissues," he added. ***Reports from Reuters and AFP***

ERRATUM

The names of the officers of the PICPA Laguna chapter, which appeared in the November 26 PICPA supplement, were incorrect.

The PICPA Laguna chapter officers for 2001 are as follows:

Ma. Arleen O. Aclan, president; Conrado B. Roxas, president-elect; Lina H. Dilao, vice president-prof. development; Emily L. Callies Lo, vice president-membership; Ma. Lourdes A. Cruz, director, secretary; Imelda M. Paclibar, director, assistant secretary; Lolita D. Dacanay, director, treasurer; Ma. Pamela B. Gonzales, director, asst. treasurer; Ferdinand P. Aguinaldo, director, auditor; Divina L. Mapanoo, director, P.R.O.; Roger A. Francisco, director, Comm. & Ind.; Catalina L. Saraza, director, Comm. & Ind.; Susana A. Mendiola, director, education; Michael C. Peñalosa, director, government; Lorna A. Buenaventura, director, public practice; Gracia S. Padian, ex-officio director.

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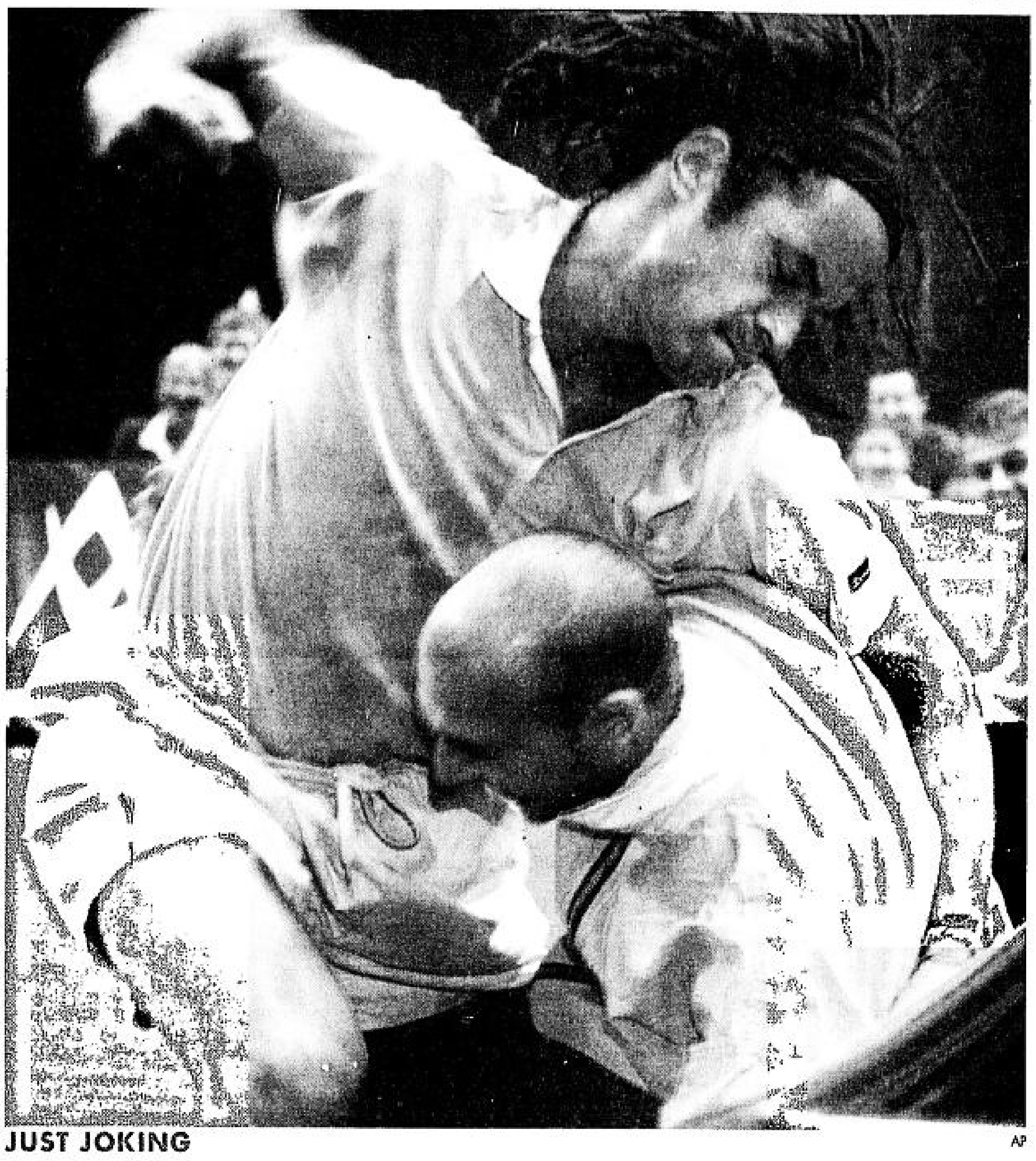


JUST JOKING

AP

French tennis player Jannick Noah, above, pretends to beat an unidentified linesman for not agreeing with a decision during his friendly match against German Boris Becker, not seen, at the opening of the tennis fall tournament in Oberhausen, Western Germany, on Sunday.

RP TENNIS MEET

Taipei, Korea net entries march on

CHEN Ti of Chinese Taipei secured a seat in the main draw after posting a 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 victory over seventh seed Leif Meineke of Germany yesterday in the final qualifying round of the US$15,000 Tru-flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday.

Also advancing into the main draw were top seed and world's No. 474 Kim Dong-Hyun of Korea, second pick Hiroki Kondo of Japan and third seed Maximilian Abel of Germany.

Kim defeated No. 13 Viekoslav Skenderovic of Croatia, 4-6, 6-0, 6-2; Kondo downed Tsai Chia Yen of Chinese Taipei, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3; and Abel outplayed No. 12 Roman Kukal of Slovak Republic, 6-0, 7-6(3).

No. 5 Peter Handoyo and No. 8 Febi Widhiyanto of Indonesia, No. 6 Robert Krause of South Africa and No. 10 Attapol Rithiwattanapong of Thailand completed the qualifiers in the 32-man main draw of this event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.

ABADIA

Handoyo trounced No. 9 Hendri Susilo Pramono, 6-3, 6-2; Widhiyanto conquered Marc Paulik of New Zealand, 6-4, 6-3; Krause beat Lee Dee-Dong of Korea, 6-3, 6-1; and Rithiwattanapong rallied past No. 4 Coenie Van Wyk of South Africa, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Filipino wild cards Adelo Abadia, Joseph Arcilla, Michael Mora III and Joseph Victorino are seeing action in the main draw which starts at 9 a.m. today.

6 teams to join PCA exec tourney

SIX teams are all set to compete in the First Sequtech Invitational Executive Tennis Tournament on Dec. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco, Manila.

Sequtech Corp. is the exclusive distributor of Powermax, a wireless alarm and home automation system from Visonic Ltd. of Tel Aviv, Israel. Sportsman Patrick Antonio is Sequtech's president.

The competing teams are Philippine Columbian Association, Valle Verde Country Club, Mandaluyong Tennis Club, Hillsborough Tennis Club, San Pablo Tennis Club and Powermax Tennis Club.

The winners will get the following prizes: P25,000 plus trophy for the team champion, P15,000 for the runner-up and P7,500 for the second runner-up.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: 2001 Straits Cup, Day Two Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: US NCAA – Utah Runnin' Utes vs Alabama Crimson Tide at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs St. Louis Rams at 10 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

TENNIS: Seniors Open - Cathay Pacific Champions Tennis 2001 Semifinal #2 at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB Brazil Open, Men's 3rd Place Game and Finals at 10 a.m. on Star Sports

Women's Big Ten - Wisconsin vs Penn State at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. at 12 noon, Highlights at 6 p.m. on Star Sports and 7 p.m. on ESPN

Visitacion swimmer on the rise

BY ROY LUARCA

BECOMING a champion swimmer is hard enough. Being an outstanding student as well is doubly daunting. Erika Louise Yulo Visitacion is among the very few who have managed to be both.

VISITACION

The eight-year-old is regarded as among the country's brightest swimming prospects while consistently topping her Grade 3 class at the Montessori de Manila.

Visitacion first broke into national prominence last year when she smashed the Philippine mark in the 7-8 years old girls' 50-meter breaststroke during the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy 2000 in Laguna.

In an event where a second spells a whale of a difference, Visitacion ripped the old mark of 49.98 seconds by an astonishing 3.85 seconds (46.13) to earn the admiration of Eric Buhain, once the region's king of the pool.

Since then, Visitacion has improved a lot but she made it a point to maintain her No.1 academic standing. When she isn't doing her routine 3,000-5,000 meters workout at the pool, Visitacion is reading her books, clicking the computer or playing with younger sister Eriko.

In fact, when she was down with the flu a few weeks ago she bought six pocket books, according to her father Allan, a businessman.

Erika's interest in swimming was accidentally discovered by Allan when she was just 3 years old. Allan saw her fondness of staying in a large Orocan pail and he wasted no time enrolling her at the Dalta swimming club, which is based near their residence in Las Piñas City.

A few years and several swimming medals later, Erika has progressed enough to reach the No. 12 national ranking in the mixed division of the 10 and under freestyle.

In the recent grading competitions sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association and held at the International School, Erika also wound up 16th in the 50m butterfly, 15th in the 100m freestyle, 16th in the 50m butterfly, 18th in the 50m breaststroke, 21st in the 100m back and 24th in the 100m butterfly.

Stroke specialist Ramil Jagurin is Erika's current coach with supervision from Buhain.

Allan said he and his wife, Joyce, are just letting Erika do as she pleases. It just happens that she loves her books and swimming at the same time.

Cebu booters rule under-16 tilt

BACOLOD CITY—Cebu's Carmen National High School booters edged host Don Bosco Technical Institute, 1-0, Sunday to snare the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal Visayas under-16 football title at the Paglaum Sports Complex here.

Randel Cano scored in the 71st minute to lift the Cebuanos to the national finals slated Jan. 31-Feb.4 in Iloilo City on their first try.

Former national champion Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High has earned an automatic slot in the national finals for being the host squad. The top two teams from Luzon and Mindanao will also advance to the national finals of the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola.

Coach Mario Ceniza's Carmen National High boys displayed a lot of spunk and skills as they knocked out former national titlist Negros Oriental High of Dumaguete City, 4-1, Saturday.

DBTI and NOHS battled to a 2-2 draw in the opener of the three-team series last Friday.

Cebu booters took four individual awards while Don Bosco earned the Chris Monfort Fair Play trophy named after the late PFF general secretary.

The individual awardees were Carmen High's Josaphat Sacil, best defender; Arnie Pasinabo, best midfielder; Junard Aguilar, best striker; and Martin Bontia, most valuable player; and DBTI's Kenneth Dolloso, best goalkeeper.

MATRIARCH WINNER

Starine, handled by John Velasquez, charges to the finish line to win the Grade 1 $500,000 Matriarch in Hollywood Park, California on Sunday. It was Velasquez's fourth major win of the weekend. Bobby Frankel, who trains Starine, also scored through Denon, who topped the Derby. AP.

Guerrouj, Dragila athletes of the year

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—Moroccan 1,500-meter world record-holder Hicham El Guerrouj and American pole vault champion Stacy Dragila on Sunday were named the IAAF's Athletes of the Year.

El Guerrouj, 27, won gold in the 1,500 at the world championships in Edmonton, Canada, last August and is ranked No. 1 in the IAAF's athletics world rankings for men.

He set the world record of 3:26.00 in Rome in 1998.

DRAGILA

The Moroccan has twice failed to win Olympic gold despite being among the title favorites. In Atlanta in 1996, he finished last after falling in the bell lap. In Sydney last year, he was overtaken by Kenyan Noah Ngeny in the final few meters and settled for silver.

Last month he pledged to win the 1,500 Olympic title "no matter what."

Dragila, 30, also holds the world record and in August claimed her second straight world championship title, thereby overtaking Marion Jones in the IAAF's world rankings for women.

She took Olympic gold in Sydney last year. She set her world record with a 4.81-meter effort at Palo Alto, California last June.

Last year's winners of the IAAF award were Czech javelin thrower Jan Zelezny and American sprinter Marion Jones. *AP*

Kenyan sets record

FLORENCE, Italy—Daniel Too Kirwa led a 1-2-3 Kenyan triumph in the Florence Marathon on Sunday, setting a record time for the race in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 38 seconds.

Kirwa, 25, improved the previous course record by more than one minute, set by Italy's Michele Gamba in the 1999 edition.

Charles Tangus and Eric Kiptoon placed second and third respectively. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Efren 'Bata' Reyes beat Earl Strickland, 11-10, to win the Japan International 9-Ball Open at Selcy Plaza Sports Club in Osaka. Also today in 1990 the Philippines defeated Brazil, 2.5-1.5, to score its first win in eight rounds of the 29th Chess Olympiad at the Voyvodina Sports Center in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

Air Force tops Super Cup

AIR Force drew inspiration from the surprise appearance of their commanding general to pull off an exciting 2-1 victory over Navy last Saturday night and capture the Third Globe Super Cup football crown at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City.

With Air Force chief Gen. Benjie Defensor rooting for them, the Airmen soared and banked on the heroics anew of national player Yanti Barsales in bagging the championship on top of the top cash prize of P50,000.

Receiving a 35-yard pass from a direct kick by teammate Edsel Bracamonte, the enterprising striker booted in the marginal goal in the 75th minute from pointblank following a goalmouth scramble to seal the Seaman's fate.

Navy settled for the runner-up pot of P20,000.

Yugo cagers asked to pay for scholarships, paper says

DAYTON, Ohio—A former assistant coach at some small US colleges has been paid for helping Yugoslav basketball players get college athletic scholarships in the United States, despite rules prohibiting the practice, the Dayton Daily News reported Sunday.

The newspaper reported that families in Yugoslavia have paid Vladimir Bosnjak for scholarships. Bosnjak has helped at least 40 Yugoslav basketball players get scholarships.

Some coaches who recruited players through Bosnjak said they knew he was charging families, the newspaper said. Others said they never asked him.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association prohibits students from paying anyone to find a scholarship, and the association's 1,262 colleges and universities are restricted from using middlemen to find players.

"They are taking advantage of our system to make money," said Bill Bradshaw, DePaul University athletic director and president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. "It's very troubling."

According to the newspaper, Bosnjak said in a July interview that he helps poor athletes fulfill their dreams of playing in America. He said his business doesn't break any NCAA rules.

"Really I'm not a money maker. ... I bring good people, good humans and good citizens who can definitely do the job on the court and off the court," Bosnjak said in Belgrade. "I never had any kind of violation over there. ... I know the rules of the NCAA."

Last year, there were 39 basketball players from Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia on NCAA Division I men's basketball teams, the newspaper said.

Bosnjak said he only charges the families for phone bills, faxes and making videotapes of the players, and he said he gives the money back if he doesn't find a college for them.

Bosnjak, 35, said he sends only average players to America, those who can't make a living playing professional basketball in Europe.

The Daily News said its investigation found that agents, brokers and middlemen in Yugoslavia are profiting from athletic scholarships in basketball, soccer, volleyball and swimming. *AP*

CAGE CHAMPS

National shooting champion and Spring Cooking Oil team owner Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (in white polo shirt) and Spring players, led by Bobby Parks and Mike Buendia, receive the trophy from BAP president Tiny Literal after the Cooking Oil Experts blasted Korea, 84-68, in the National Open basketball championship Saturday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. It was Spring Cooking Oil's second title in less than three months, having ruled the Danny Espiritu Cup tournament last September.

Jacobs is Asiad coach

By June Navarro

JACOBS

SAN Miguel Beer consultant and multi-awarded coach Ron Jacobs yesterday was named head coach of the PBA-backed national team bound for the Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, next year.

The PBA Board of Governors also approved "in principle" the proposed calendar of events and Asian Games portfolio drawn up by the Commissioner's Office with some very slight modifications.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said Jacobs, who steered the country to the ABC title in 1986 and Asian Youth Basketball Championships in 1982, has all the ingredients and the technical know-how needed to win the Asiad gold the country had last won in 1962.

"I believe he has got what it takes to prepare the team and whip up a good combination against tougher teams in the Asiad," said Bernardino during a break in the PBA Board of Governors' monthly meeting at the Manila Golf Club.

Bernardino said the Board of Governors did not question the coach of his choice. He said it was his hope that the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines wouldn't raise a howl on Jacob's ascension.

"The board has accepted the fact that the matter of choosing the coach will be the sole responsibility of the Commissioner," he said.

Jacobs was chosen by the PBA to handle the Centennial Team in 1998 to the Bangkok Asian Games but opted to give way after he came under fire from the BCAP.

"I don't see any protest from the BCAP but if protests suddenly crop up, I am willing to face all of them," said Bernardino.

Bernardino and Jacobs will discuss the PBA's program for the Asiad today at the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Last week, Bernardino presented the Asiad scheme to the media where the PBA will conduct an open tryouts starting Jan. 3.

After the aspirants were pruned down to 24, they will be divided into two teams and compete in the Commissioner's Cup slated Feb. 10 to May 31 next year.

From the two training squads, the coaching staff will select the 12 cagers who will play in the all-star break on June 9 against either a selection from the Asian Basketball Confederation or a team made up of imports.

The PBA-backed squad will then strut its wares in the 2nd Conference (Governors' Cup) before going to the Asian Games probably on Sept. 25 or 26.

Welcoat seeks 4th vs Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
Blu	4	1
Welcoat	3	1
ICTSI	3	1
Shark	3	2
Kutitap	3	3
Ana	2	4
Ateneo	1	3
Montaña	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Ana Freezers
5:30 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat Paints

BEMEDALLED Welcoat Paints seeks a share of the leadership as it tackles defending champion Shark Energy Drink today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Shark-Welcoat tussle is set at 5:30 p.m., after the 3:30 p.m. encounter between Ana Freezers and tailender Montaña Jewels.

While Shark won its last two games, four-time champion Welcoat lost to Blu Detergent, 80-75, last Thursday. A victory will enable the Paintmasters to tie the Detergent Kings for the lead with 4-1 card.

"I expect Welcoat to come out extra strong after losing to Blu," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. Austria and his assistant Dayong Mendoza have thoroughly scouted Welcoat, identifying its strengths and weaknesses.

The presence of Irvin Sotto (6-foot-7) and Rysal Castro (6-foot-6) gives Shark the ability to one-on-one against the country's most dominant center—the 6-foot-8 Yancy de Ocampo.

Aside from De Ocampo, Welcoat also boasts of a double-barreled offensive courtesy of Ren Ren Ritualo and Jojo Manalo. With Celino Cruz still not in tip top shape, burly enforcer Eugene Tan will take care of the playmaking chores.

Shark is dangerous when on the run. Speedster Warren Ybañez plus the foxy Michael Robinson should be able to match up well against Welcoat's backcourt.

If Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan can keep their focus, Shark can give Welcoat a run for its money.

Clark toxic waste big threat to athletes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I TOTALLY disagree with the recent statement attributed to my friend, Pampanga board member and PBA coach Yeng Guiao, where he was quoted as proposing a P3-billion budget for the construction of a state-of-the-art sports complex at the Clark Special Economic Zone which, in turn, could also used as a venue for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Guiao, son of the late Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao, who was also a friend, said he has already conducted an informal feasibility study on Clark as the SEA Games venue, adding that a P3-billion budget would be manageable as "we are looking also into the long-term use of the sports complex beyond the SEAG." He explained that once the modern complex is completed it would serve as a permanent site not only for future international and national sports meets, but also as a training center for the country' athletes.

I say Guiao is ill-advised to pursue that grandiose plan to build a sports complex at Clark because there are confirmed reports about the presence of toxic waste in the former American military base, which, needless to say, would adversely affect the physical and mental health of the athletes who will be training there.

There have been at least 80 deaths resulting from drinking contaminated water at the Clark evacuation area where 20,000 families were evacuated after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, said environmentalist Allen Hubbard, a licensed geologist in North and South Carolina and a relative of Maj. Harold M. Clark, World War I flyer for whom Clark Airbase was named.

On the other hand, Prof. Giovanni Tapang of the alliance Up Against Toxics! Said toxic contamination at Clark might be worse than previously known, citing studies which identified 14 contaminated sites at the former American base. It also claimed that the American forces who conducted recent military exercises there used only bottle water not only for drinking but for bathing as well. Further, it stressed that toxic waste in the water that the people drink or in the air that they breathe caused leukemia and mental retardation, which heaven forbid, the athletes could suffer in the long run once they are housed at Clark to conduct their training there when the sports complex is completed. Instead of Clark, I suggest other environmental-friendly sites like the cities of Tagaytay, Baguio and Antipolo. Or further down south, Cebu and Bacolod, which, incidentally, are also bidding to host the 2005 SEA Games.

* * *

SPOTLIGHT ON... Efren "Bata" Reyes, who, at this point, should repeat as "Athlete of the Year" of both SCOOP and the PSA. A Puyat Sports mainstay, the pool "Magician" has thus far won five major international tournaments, banking more than P12 million in prize monies... And Spring Cooking Oil for winning the National Open invitational basketball title behind the all-out support of national shooter Tac Padilla and his father, Olympic shooter Tom Ong.

PMI, Rizal stop NCRAA opponents

GAMES TOMORROW (PMI gym)
8 a.m. SBC vs Featl (seniors)
9:30 p.m. DLSU-M vs NCBA (seniors)
11 a.m. OC vs EAC (seniors)
12:30 p.m. Lyceum vs AMACC (seniors)
2 p.m. RTU vs PSBA (seniors)
3:30 p.m. SFACS vs PATTS (seniors)
5 p.m. CDSL vs UA&P (seniors)

PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute and Rizal Technological University scraped out difficult wins while St. Francis of Assisi College kept its slate clean yesterday in the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball jousts at the Lyceum gym.

PMI edged PATTS College of Aeronautics, 56-54, while RTU outlasted New Era University, 70-67, to post their first wins in this tournament supported by Pagcor, Mikasa, Splash, Pepsi-Cola and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

SFAC, still featuring its towering frontline led by brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo, hardly worked out a sweat in 79-50 triumph over erratic Philippine School of Business Administration.

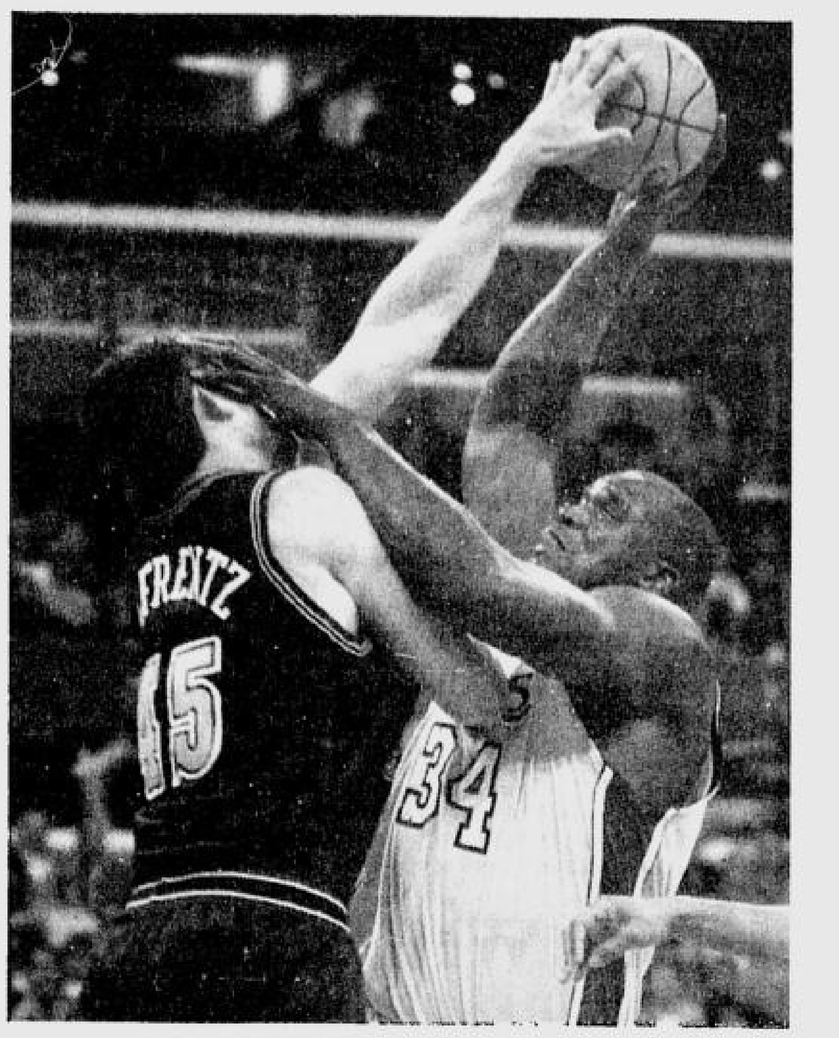
It was the second straight rout for the Doves, who also whipped PMI (81-61) during the opening rites last Friday. They lead the Group A with a 2-0 win loss card followed by DLSU-Dasmariñas' and RTU's lone victories. PMI and PATTS tote even 1-1 slates.

Al Vergara led SFAC with 16 points followed by Yancy de Ocampo's 13 and John Adrimesen's nine markers. Manuel Caceres and Ronald King had 15 and eight, respectively for the Jaguars, who took a second straight beating.

In the lone women's Group B match, the Lyceum Pirates blasted the Colegio de San Lorenzo, 56-40, for a 2-0 slate. The Lady Griffins absorbed their second straight loss.

NBA Results

Toronto 107, Philadelphia 88; L.A. Clippers 90, Houston 83; Seattle 99, Indiana 88; Golden State 101, New Jersey 85; L.A. Lakers 105, Denver 98. AP



LOS Angeles Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal, driving to the basket, gets a hand on the ball during the first half in Los Angeles yesterday in NBA action. O'Neal dunked and La Frentz of the Denver Nuggets was called for a foul on the play. Los Angeles won, 105-98. AP

$1M for Norman, nothing for Woods

NORMAN

INDIO, California — Greg Norman had all the odds in his favor as he stood over a bunker shot next to the 18th green Sunday at the Skins Game. No one had won a dime yet, but Norman was about to earn a bundle.

The only question was how big that bundle would be.

Norman ended up making it a cool $1 million, making a routine par on the 18th hole and adding a birdie on the second extra hole to sweep all the money.

Norman's win in a new format made him the biggest winner in the 19-year history of the event. It also made losers out of Tiger Woods, Jesper Parnevik and Colin Montgomerie, who all went home empty-handed.

"Any win is a great win, whether it's a Skins Game or a regular tournament," Norman said. "It's very satisfying to do it. Whenever you beat the caliber of players like that, it's good."

Norman, after making a birdie on the 17th hole to win all the previous skins, needed to only par the 18th to become the big winner. That was because a new rule forced a player to at least tie for low score on the next hole after winning a skin.

He did it with a conservative sand shot and two putts that allowed him to cash in 17 skins worth $800,000. Still at stake, though, was the $200,000 skin from the 18th hole, which Norman added for good measure on a 1.5-meter (5-foot) putt for birdie on the second playoff hole.

Amarador active chess champ

Final Standings:
Amarador, Salimbagat 6.5 points; Buenaventura 6; Macala, Vuelban, Dela Cruz, Singangote, Branzuela, Mejia 5.5.

ROBERT Amarador defeated Edmundo Gatus in the final round to win the Non-Master Active chess championship held at the 5/F, SM Megamall on Sunday.

Amarador and Rico Salimbag (who defeated Noel Dela Cruz in the final round) both garnered 6.5 points out of seven games, but he was declared champion after the tiebreak.

The duo received P3,000 each to share the first and second cash prizes, while Adonis Buenaventura received P100) for third place and Macala, Vuelban, Dela Cruz, Singapore and Branzuela shared the 4th place to fifth place prizes worth P1,200. Johnny Mejia likewise tallied 5.5 points to tie but was chosen as the Top Senior Category winner.

Burns World Rally winner

CARDIFF, Wales—Richard Burns claimed his first season World Rally Championship on Sunday by finishing third in the British Rally, making him the first Englishman to take the title.

Driving a Subaru, Burns was third behind Marcus Gronholm in a Peugeot and Peugeot teammate Harri Rovanpera. The third-place finish gave him 44 points, two ahead of Colin McRae and three over Tommi Makinen.

McRae, the 1995 champion, and four-time champion Makinen crashed out of the race on Friday, leaving Burns with a clear shot at the title. Burns was the runner-up the last two seasons for the overall title.

Defending season champion Gronholm, after finishing the 17th stage on Sunday to end the four-day rally, was 2 minutes 27 seconds ahead of countryman Rovanpera. Burns finished 3:27 behind Gronholm.

"It is a shame we could not win the rally, but after the first day all I was thinking about was the championship," Burns said. AP

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

GameworX slates dartfest

SEASONED players and budding talents from all over the country converge in the year's biggest dartfest, the Super Darts 2001, a five day tournament that reels off tomorrow at the GameworX Recreational Center, Muntinlupa City. The three-in one event sponsored by Pagcor and PCSO features the National Singles for men and women in the first two days of action.

OLYMPIC ASSEMBLY

Dayrit: Am ready against Go

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THINGS are heating up going into tomorrow's Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly as POC president Celso Dayrit and athletics head Go Teng Kok yesterday renewed their word war regarding key national sports association issues.

The bone of contention: Dayrit claimed that everything is well in the POC and that Go is just planning to stage a coup.

But Go countered that he's not going to make a "foolish power-grab" but instead cited at least three NSA issues which the POC had allegedly "mishandled."

Dayrit earlier said he is prepared to face Go in a showdown in the noontime meeting at the Philippine Columbian Association, even challenging the athletics chief to "bring everything up before the general assembly and let the body decide."

However, Go said that while he could very well use the NSAs' issues to grab the power from him, he said he won't resort to "such foolish measures.

"If he's (Dayrit) performing well, there is no reason for NSA heads to oust him even if I pay them," Go said.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño also said they "would like to determine if we still deserve to be there."

Ribaño said he welcomed Go's alleged attempt to call a vote of no confidence for the Olympic body head. Said Ribaño: "If we win, they (Go and his allies) must shut up."

But Go denied having had such a plan, saying he was no longer interested in becoming POC president. He said he only wants the POC to help "problematic NSAs" that are seeking his help.

"He's barking up the wrong tree," said Go of Dayrit. "He's got it all wrong because all I want is to call the POC's attention on the problems plaguing these NSAs which have grown impatient over Dayrit's leadership."

The Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president said the POC is faced with "nagging leadership issues" like the leadership disputes in cycling, weightlifting, karatedo and tennis associations, as well as the status of former basketball chief Freddie Jalasco, who continues to sit as POC board member.

▨ Korean, Taipei bets join German in tennis draw at Rizal A18

▨ Cebu booters shine A18

▨ Welcoat seeks PBL lead vs Shark A19

Bata winning streak ends in Japan

REYES

THE WINNING streak has ended for Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Reyes, unbeaten in the month of October and early this month, lost in the quarterfinals of the 34th All Japan Championship in Amagasaki City.

The man known around the World as "The Magician" lost an epic struggle against World Pool Champion Mika Immonen, 11-10.

Reyes' defeat ended a string of three tournament victories that began in late October.

Another Filipino, Warren Kiamco, also lost to Immonen by an identical 11-10 score in another classic battle in the semifinals.

However, Immonen was beaten in the finals by US Open champion Corey Deuel, remarkably by the same 11 racks to 10 count.

Deuel pocketed the top prize of $15,000.

By beating Reyes, Immonen avenged his loss to "The Magician" last October in the Accu-Stats 8-Ball Invitational and made up for his failure in the Tokyo 9-Ball International, the biggest pool tournament ever which was won by Reyes.

Reyes also prevailed in the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland, some two weeks ago.

Reyes looked ready to win another major tournament when he beat the Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan, 11-9, in the round of 32 and then whipped Japan's Kiyotaka Ohashi, 11-2, in the round of 16.

However, against the precision-playing Immonen, Reyes faltered just enough to give the young Finnish star an opening which he grabbed and went on to win.

Reyes is scheduled to return to Manila on Thursday, winding up a most successful year that saw him pocket over P12 million.

Go's gripe

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IS Go Teng Kok an issue in tomorrow's general assembly of the Philippine Olympic Committee?

Yes, I guess.

For, at the rate Go is attacking Cito Dayrit's brand of leadership as POC president, Go could even be the main issue. The rest would be mere gravy.

Go has been saying that Dayrit has been remiss in handling the leadership crises at weightlifting, cycling, karatedo and tennis. Are there really crises in those NSAs?

Go insists leaders of the four associations have been pestering him to bring their cases to Dayrit's attention.

Dayrit has countered Go was raising inconsequential issues. Dayrit said Go is trying to cook up a plot to oust him as POC president.

But Go has denied that.

"He's got it all wrong," Go said. "All I want is to call the POC's attention on the problems plaguing these NSAs which have grown impatient over Dayrit's leadership."

My advice: Take it from there, Cito. Meaning, in tomorrow's meeting, table Go's gripe. As athletics president, Go deserves your attention. Tell the assembly your stand on Go's gripe. Since the general assembly is the most powerful body in the POC, Go's gripe should be addressed there once and for all. Tarry some more, Cito, and you might fall into a trap.

Go must back up his accusation with documents for it to hold water in tomorrow's general assembly.

If I may give an unsolicited advice, Cito: It is for the general assembly to say if Go's gripe is valid or not.

If valid, will that be enough to oust Cito?

I don't believe so. Go's gripe is just that—a gripe.

But what if the assembly found Go's gripe not valid, what will it do to Go?

That I want to see.

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KIA

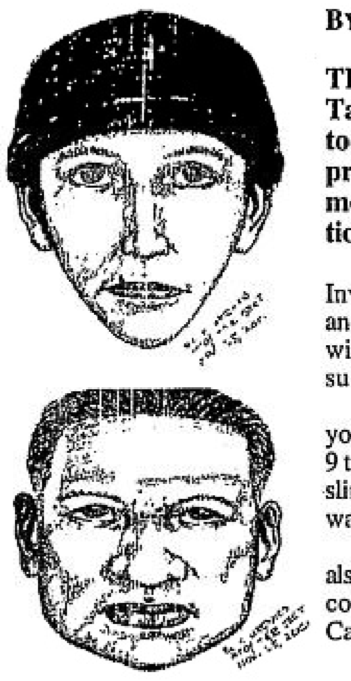
▩ P1.5M prize for info on mayor's killers A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ Woman shoots youth A22
▩ Parañaque: Deal with Taguig is off A22

Witness describes 2 Cinco killers



WPD SKETCH

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) Task Force Cinco already has in its custody a male witness who was able to provide a description of the two gunmen who killed Commission on Elections (Comelec) director Velma Cinco.

Supt. Frederico Castro Jr., WPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (Cidu) chief and Task Force Cinco spokesperson, said the witness had given a clear description of the suspects.

Castro said the witness described the younger suspect as 35 to 40 years old, 5-foot-9 to 5-foot-10 in height, 130 to 140 lbs, with a slim build, and fair complexioned. The gunman was wearing a bonnet, the witness said.

The other suspect was 39 to 45 years old, also 5-foot-9 to 5-foot-10, 170 to 180 lbs, brown complexioned, and had a muscular body, Castro said.

Based on the witness's account, a WPD artist made two sketches of the gunmen, and the sketchers were distributed to other investigators.

Castro said the witness was standing at a gas station at the corner of Tejeron and Pedro Gil streets around 7 a.m., or 40 minutes before the attack on Cinco, who was on her way to work with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme, on Nov. 7.

The Cincos and Jayme were on board their red Kia Pride (TDR 779) when two men on motorcyles ambushed them at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets in Sta. Ana, Manila.

Cinco, 62, died due to four gunshot wounds in the head and body. Carlo was hit in the right shoulder. Jayme was unhurt.

Castro said the witness saw the suspects at the gas station when they were not wearing helmets and their faces were not covered with towels.

The witness told investigators that he was frightened because he saw the suspects check their guns before they drove away on their motorcycle.

WITNESS/ A22

Carlson kin arrive from US for burial

BY CRISTINA ARZADON
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Even if they were not around when she was alive and suffering from domestic violence, the mother and two sisters of former beauty queen and actress Maria Teresa Carlson have arrived from the US and are expected to attend her Dec. 1 burial.

They were scheduled to arrive today at the residence of Carlson's husband, former Ilocos Norte governor and former congressman Rodolfo Fariñas. Her body is lying in state in the house where her six children with Fariñas live with their father.

On Friday, Carlson leaped to her death from her 23rd floor condominium unit on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan.

Carlson will be buried on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Laoag Floral Garden. A Mass will be held at the St. William's Cathedral before the burial.

CARLSON/ A22

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MMDA to open Rizal landfill

BY ALCUIN PAPA
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE METRO Manila Development Authority yesterday said the landfill in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town in Rizal would finally be opened in the first week of December.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. announced this even as Metro Manila mayors said they would still use the new recycling technology called thermoselect to solve the garbage crisis in the metropolis despite the warnings of the environmental group Greenpeace Philippines about the system's negative effects.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez said he was coordinating with other mayors in building in southern Metro Manila, possibly in his city, the first thermoselect plant in the country.

Abalos said he asked the Solid Waste Contractors Association of the Philippines (Swacap), an organization of garbage collectors, to brace themselves for the big increase in the volume of Metro Manila's garbage during the December holidays.

The new access road that cuts through the La Mesa Dam and leads to the 5-hectare landfill in Barangay San Isidro in Rodriguez is now ready for use, according to Abalos. The access road would allow garbage trucks to ferry trash to the landfill without having to pass through any towns, he said.

MMDA TO OPEN/ A22

WAZZZZUP?
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Let Misuari rot in Malaysian jail

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT'S better for Moro leader Nur Misuari to rot in a Malaysian jail rather than have him face trial in this country for rebellion. Malaysia has a very efficient system of justice. The Malaysians' system is more efficient than ours. Misuari will not escape punishment at the hands of the British-style judicial system.

I'm sure that when Misuari and his bodyguards were caught by the Malaysian police they were carrying guns. Carrying a gun is a serious crime in Malaysia where policemen only carry nightsticks.

***

That's the reason President Macapagal-Arroyo is not keen on having Misuari repatriated to face trial here.

Some of Ms Arroyo's advisers apparently told her about Malaysia's stringent laws against carrying guns.

The Malaysian government can't forget the attack by Misuari's fellow Moros on a diving resort in Sabah last year. The Moros took Malaysian and foreign resort guests, as well as its employees, with them. It took months and huge ransom payments before the guests, all Westerners, and Malaysian employees were released

Imposing a stiff penalty on Misuari would give a message to his fellow Moros against messing with Malaysia again.

***

First it was First Gentleman Mike Arroyo who was accused of receiving bribe money for allegedly working on the recall of a veto of two telecommunications franchise bills.

Now, it's the President herself who's being accused. It is alleged that she demanded a majority share of both the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network.

Anybody who knows how a House or Senate bill becomes a law will tell you it's impossible for the President to recall a veto without raising eyebrows from the senators and congressmen. Ms Macapagal vetoed a bill that would have made the two firms clearinghouses of all calls for Globe and Smart.

So, how could she demand shares from two companies that she legislated out of existence by her veto?

***

Businessman Pacifico Marcelo, GMA's accuser, is the same person now clearing Mike Arroyo of any wrongdoing.

"So it is not true that Mike Arroyo received a bribe of P40 million for the recall of the veto of our two franchise bills, although an attempt was made through Ito Los Baños," Marcelo said in a sworn statement.

"What is true, however," the businessman continued, "is that the President asked from me the majority and controlling interest in (PCCI)."

GMA's detractors can't got their act together to make their lie sound credible.

***

Former Constabulary Col. Billy Bibit, now customs collector of the Subic Bay Freeport, writes in reaction to the criticism from this corner about his continued defiance of an order from higher-ups for him to vacate his post.

The reasons he gives in not budging from his post are flawed. They're not only flawed, they reek of arrogance or power.

On the recent reshuffle at the Bureau of Customs which affected him, Bibit has this to say:

"The reshuffle entirely defies logic, not to mention the utter lack of basis or cause. If it was an honest-to- goodness reshuffle, then at least the majority of the 13 principal ports would (have been) affected. As it stands out however, only six district collectors were changed."

***

So, the reason Mr. Bibit wants to stay on in his post is that he believes the recent customs reshuffle was not an "honest –to- goodness" one. Who is he, a mere collector, to question the motives or intentions of his superiors in making the reassignments?

Bibit continues in his explanation:

"Customs Commissioner (Titus) Villanueva may be pulling your leg when he said that the transfer must be interpreted as a challenge on my part, as I was successful in steering the Port of Subic to being on top among all ports in terms of revenue collection. If that is the case, why didn't he transfer me to the Port of Manila, which can be considered a real challenge given its consistent dismal performance of not meeting the target revenue collection."

***Uy, si* Mr. Bibit *nagbubuhat ng sariling bangko* ! How presumptuous of him to say that you had the highest revenue collection among all the port collectors. Why don't you have somebody say that for you, Sir?**

The fact is I never talked to Commissioner Villanueva, so he could never have "pulled my leg" that he was transferring you because he was giving you a more challenging post.

Besides, how dare you choose your own position in the reshuffle. *Parang ikaw ang* customs commissioner, *ah* !

***At huwag mong dinagdagdagan ang pananakot kay* Villanueva. The old man, who is to retire early next year, trembles at the mere mention of your name.**

***

After collecting P1.3 million from a client, a lady (?) lawyer has left the poor guy holding the bag.

The client keeps calling her to ask her about the status of his case. She hasn't returned his calls.

The client has complained to me. I advised him to seek the help of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).

But, on second thought, the IBP is a useless group !

Wawa naman kliyente !

₱1.5M prize for info on mayor's killers

By Jerome Aning

NEWLY installed Mabitac, Laguna Mayor Apollo Aguilar yesterday said businessmen in his town have offered P1.5 million for any information leading to the arrest of the mastermind and suspects in the ambush-slaying of his predecessor last month.

In a news conference at a Manila restaurant, Aguilar said they decided to offer a reward because Mabitac residents "could never live in peace" unless the murder of Mayor Bernardo Sayarot was solved.

Aguilar, the former vice mayor, said P1 million would go to any civilian who could pinpoint the whereabouts of or apprehend former barangay chair Benito Moncada of Paagahan, Mabitac. Police have tagged Moncada as the mastermind in the Sayarot killing, according to Aguilar.

He said information that could lead to the arrest of the alleged triggerman, Luisito San Juan, would be worth P300,000. Information leading to the arrest of another suspect, Edgar Ramos, would be worth P200,000, he said.

Gunmen ambushed Sayarot and his aide Gabriel Fuertes in Teresa, Rizal last Oct. 29. A policeman who rushed to the scene, SPO2 Eduardo Senia, was also killed.

Two suspects, Edwin Librea and Donato Bulasag, were arrested after a brief chase. Aguilar said the two have tagged Moncada, San Juan and Ramos as fellow suspects.

The ambush was initially blamed on the New People's Army's Melito Glor Command, but police investigation subsequently showed it could have been politically motivated.

Parañaque: Deal with Taguig is off

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PARAÑAQUE City government yesterday terminated its agreement with Taguig to jointly develop a disputed property at their boundary.

Disappointed over Taguig's alleged failure to collect garbage in the area, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday sent a letter to Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga terminating their Nov. 12 agreement.

"We had a gentleman's agreement, but he did not comply," Marquez yesterday told the Inquirer. "Enough is enough."

Tinga said he was also disappointed over the termination of the agreement. He said he would just ask his men to collect garbage in parts of the service road under Taguig's jurisdiction.

In last month's meeting hosted by Tinga, he and Marquez agreed to coordinate in delivering basic services, primarily garbage collection, on the east service road from Barangay Martin de Porres and the Bicutan market to the Parañaque-Muntinlupa boundary.

Marquez and Tinga agreed to alternately collect garbage, provide police assistance, and rid the service road of illegal vendors on a weekly basis immediately after the Nov. 12 meeting.

Marquez said he dispatched 50 street sweepers, 10 jumbo dump trucks, and two police patrol cars to carry out his part of the bargain.

But when it was Taguig's turn to collect garbage in the area, Tinga's men allegedly ignored the agreement and allowed garbage to pile up in the area.

This week, it was Parañaque's turn to tend to the disputed area. But when Parañaque officials got there they only saw heaps of garbage on the service road, Marquez claimed.

"That's the last straw," Marquez said. "Once is enough. These people just don't know how to deal with the agreement."

Marquez said his men would still collect garbage in the Parañaque portion of the service road. Taguig, he said, would be responsible for the remaining areas.

The new arrangement, however, could pose more problems to both local governments since they have yet to determine which parts of the service road are under their jurisdiction.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 27, 2001
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Dn 2:31-45**
Gospel: **Lk 21:5-11**

While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming my title and saying: 'I am he, the Messiah; the time is at hand.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened; for all this must happen first, even though the end is not so soon."

And Jesus said, "Nations will fight each other and kingdom will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues; in many places strange and terrifying signs from heaven will be seen."

Commentary

Prophecies in the Old Testament are written in vague language, only in general terms. The future events predicted appear to be overlapping in the vision of the prophet. The New Testament authors have reinterpreted them with a deeper spiritual meaning in Jesus. The signs of the coming destruction of the Temple lead to the description of the events before the end. When God comes down to make his visitation of judgment, his coming is accompanied by terrestial and cosmic disturbances. These things are not easy for us to interpret. But there is one sure guide for us to discern authenticity. When someone announces the end on a fixed calendar date, you can be sure that that person is fake. Don't you listen to such a one.

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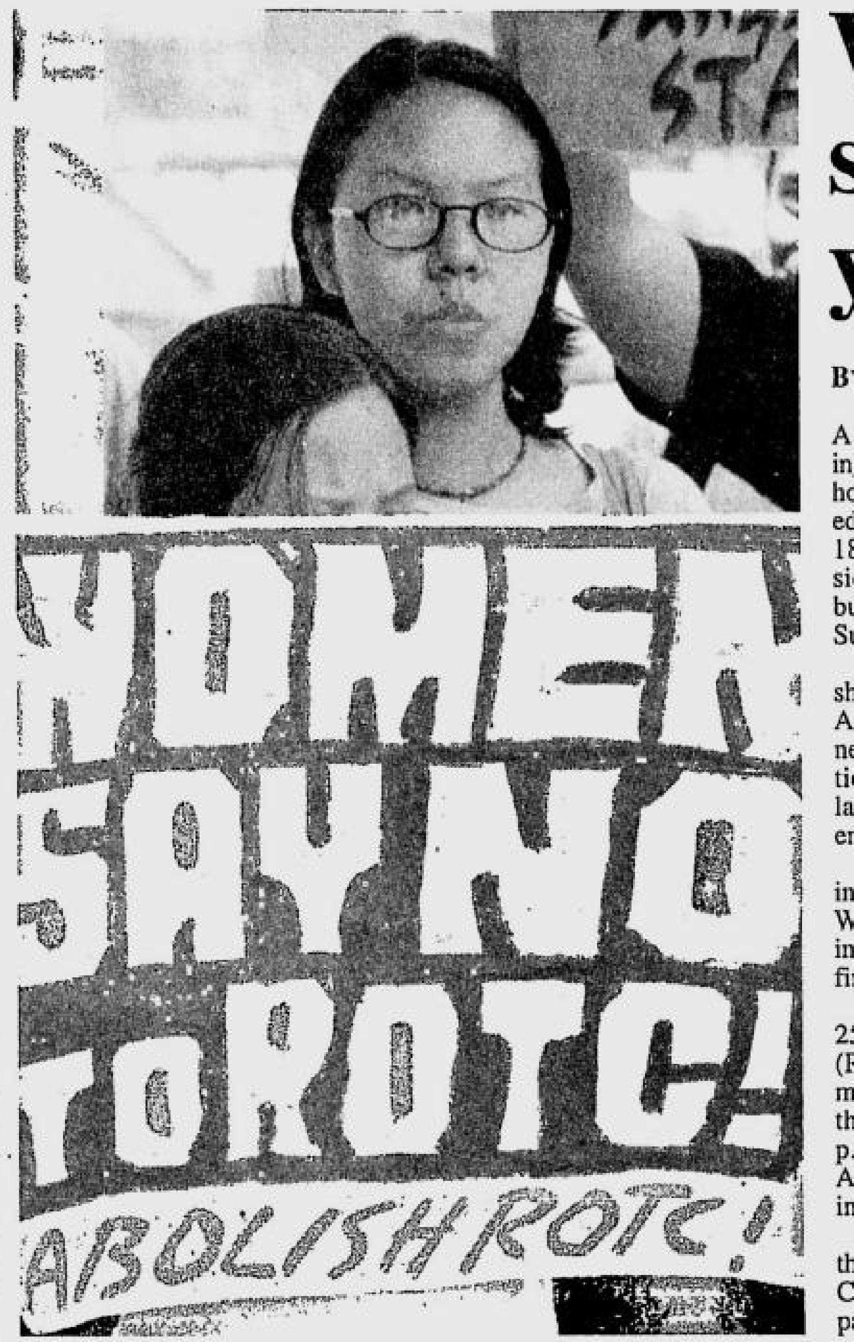
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—When is a party guilty of forum shopping—A party is guilty of forum shopping when he repetitively avails of several judicial remedies in different courts, simultaneously or successively, all substantially founded on the same transactions and the same essential facts and circumstances, and all raising substantially the same issues either pending in, or already resolved adversely, by some other court. And what is truly important to consider in determining whether forum shopping exists is the vexation caused the courts and the litigants by a party who asks different courts and/or administrative agencies to rule on the same or related causes and/or grant the same or substantially the same reliefs, in the process creating the possibility of conflicting decisions being rendered by the different for a upon the same issues. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Tantoy, Jr. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 141427, April 20, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera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WOMEN SAY NO TO ROTC!
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WOMEN VS MEN'S TRAINING

JOANBONDOC

Female members of the youth organization Anakbayan joined the call for the abolition of the Reserved Officers Training Corps program in college, during a rally outside Camp Crame in Quezon City last week.

Carlson kin arrive from US for burial

(From page A21)

Fariñas said Carlson wished to be cremated and her ashes thrown in the waters of Subic Bay.

But he said he wanted his wife to be buried in his hometown so that he and his family could visit her grave every day.

Friends and relatives of the couple continue to flock to Carlson's wake, but none of her friends from the movie industry has shown up. Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has reportedly sent a wreath to the family, but has yet to come to the wake.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of the Senate and House of Representatives have also sent flowers and wreaths.

The Fariñas clan has expressed dismay over how the media have handled Carlson's death and appealed to allow the family to mourn in private.

Lolita Reyes, a close friend of Fari□as who was one of the first people he contacted after Carlson's death, recounted how the former congressman cried when he received news of his wife's death.

"He called me on the phone when he learned that Maria was dead," Reyes said. "He was crying and asked me to go to their house because he wanted someone to talk to.

"That (Friday) morning while I was in his house, he (Fari□as) showed me on his computer the e-mail messages from Carlson. The e-mail messages spoke of (her) love (for) him and her children," Reyes added.

When Carlson's body arrived at the family residence here, Fari□as gathered his four younger sons in the bathroom and wept silently, Reyes said.

MMDA to open Rizal . . .

(From page A21)

"I have met with Swacap officials to make sure that garbage collection in December will be efficient so we can minimize the spread of uncollected garbage in the streets of Metro Manila," he said.

The MMDA said that in previous years, the volume of garbage increased from Dec. 26 until the first week of January. Garbage normally piled up during January since most workers of garbage collection firms usually spent the holidays with their families, often in the provinces.

Para□aque's Marquez said the mayors were just waiting for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to certify that the new technology complies with the requirements of the Clean Air Act before they build the factory.

"We don't care whatever Greenpeace says," he told the Inquirer. "At this point, we know that thermoselect is the most viable solution to the garbage problem."

Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia, had insisted that thermoselect was being peddled by a company with criminal records abroad.

Marquez said he would organize a garbage summit among southern Metro Manila mayors to pave the way for the building of the thermoselect factory. He said he needs the support of the local governments of Makati, Muntinlupa, Las Pi□as, Pasay, Taguig, and Pateros since it would be very costly to operate the factory to process only his city's garbage.

Greenpeace Philippines has opposed the use of thermoselect for supposedly being a high-tech version of an incinerator, the use of which had been banned by the Clean Air Act.

The mayors are also pushing for the amendment of the Clean Air Act apparently to remove any legal barrier that might prevent the use of thermoselect in the Philippines.

But Marquez said he and other mayors were convinced that the system is the missing piece in Metro Manila's waste management program.

"We will still proceed with the segregation, composting, and recycling of garbage," he said. "Thermoselect would take care of the rest of the garbage. It really has to be a coordinated effort." Mayors Peewee Trinidad of Pasay and Tobias Tiangco of Navotas are supporting the technology, according to Roger Van den Berghe, Philippine consultant of Interstate Waste Management Inc., the local representative of thermoselect in the Philippines.

On Sunday, Van den Berghe said there was no need to amend the Clean Air Act since the technology does not burn-but instead heats up-garbage in the recycling process. The air emissions of thermoselect are 97 percent less than that of an incinerator, he added.

Marquez said local governments would eventually stop using thermoselect once the public has learned to efficiently segregate, recycle, and compost garbage.

Woman shoots youth

By Agnes E. Donato

A WOMAN who won in a shooting competition is facing frustrated homicide charges after she allegedly shot and seriously injured an 18-year-old man who stole the side mirror of her vehicle on a busy street in Quezon City late Sunday afternoon.

Police said Mary Grace Tan shot Noel Canchela, of Araneta Avenue, Barangay Tatalon, in the neck. He was taken to the National Orthopedic Hospital and later transferred to the East Avenue Medical Center.

Tan reportedly placed second in the individual category in the World Shoot '99, which was held in Cebu. The Philippine team won first place in that competition.

PO3 Felipe Santos said Tan, 25, was driving a white Pajero (RVT 558) accompanied by her mother and female cousin when the shooting occurred about 5 p.m. Sunday at the corner of Araneta and E. Rodriguez avenues in Quezon City.

Tan was reportedly waiting for the red light to turn green when Canchela and an unidentified companion approached the vehicle and quickly dismantled its two side mirrors.

When the men were about to flee, Tan opened her door to go after the suspects, PO3 Santos said.

Tan told police that as she got out, Canchela took out a knife and tried to stab her. She managed to get back inside the car, got her 9-mm pistol and shot Canchela, she said.

Santos said Canchela's condition is now stable, but he still cannot give a statement to the police.

Tan is temporarily detained at Station 11 of the Central Police District. She is reportedly planning to file theft charges against Canchela.

Witness describes 2 Cinco . . .

(From page A21)

But he added that he only became suspicious that afternoon when he heard the news that Cinco had been killed. He later contacted the authorities.

The slain Comelec director was buried last Sunday but the authorities are still gathering evidence against the principal suspect in the murder case, allegedly a colleague of Cinco at the Comelec.

The WPD and the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday compared notes on their findings on Cinco's killing.

The NBI earlier released Laverne Mark Manzano, a security aide of former Comelec director Angelina Matibag, after Manzano was able to show the proper permit for his 9 mm gun.

Investigators are still cross-checking with Manzano's gun the four spent bullets found at the crime scene.

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12	WEYT A MINIT

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3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT A MINIT

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2	HARRY POTTER
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5	SERENDIPITY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	HARRY POTTER
8	HARRY POTTER
9	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
10	GLITTER
11	TRIP
12	THE ONE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

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2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HARRY POTTER
4	GLITTER
5	THE ONE
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	KAPITAN AMBO
8	HARRY POTTER
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	SERENDIPITY

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAPITAN AMBO

SM CEBU 2313836

1	TRIP
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	HARRY POTTER

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1	TRIP
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	HARRY POTTER
7	CLOSED
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

SM PAMPANGA 7120815

1	HARRY POTTER
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	KAPITAN AMBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6	WEYT A MINIT

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	HARRY POTTER
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

SM DAVAO

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2	WEYT A MINIT
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5	GLITTER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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4 GOLD (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	GLITTER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA 2000 (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	DUGONG ASO

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
5	DUGONG ASO

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	KAPITAN AMBO
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	HARRY POTTER
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	HARRY POTTER

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TRAINING DAY
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

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2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	KAPITAN AMBO

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DUGONG ASO
A	HARRY POTTER

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	
4	KAPITAN AMBO

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	DUGONG ASO
5	KAPITAN AMBO
6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8 (SDDS)	GLITTER
9 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4 (SDDS)	KAPITAN AMBO
5	DUGONG ASO
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
9	THE ONE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT A MINIT
5 (SDDS)	GLITTER
6	DUGONG ASO
7 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	KAPITAN AMBO
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4	DUGONG ASO
5 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KAPITAN AMBO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DUGONG ASO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DUGONG ASO
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3	HARRY POTTER

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	KAPITAN AMBO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

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3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	DUGONG ASO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HARRY POTTER

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DUGONG ASO
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP
3	ANO ABNG MERON KA?

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	HARRY POTTER
3	WEYT A MINIT

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KAPITAN AMBO
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2	KAPITAN AMBO
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	HARRY POTTER
4	WEYT A MINIT

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GHOST OF MARS
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	HARRY POTTER

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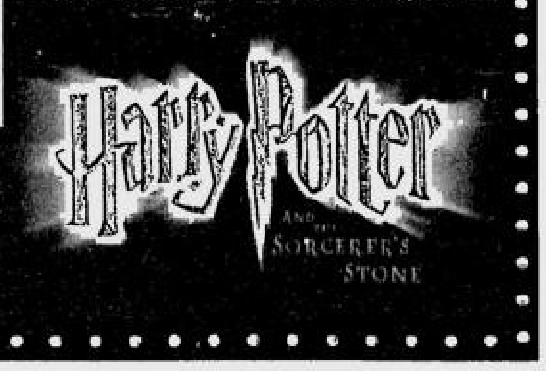

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3	HARRY POTTER
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HARRY POTTER
6	THE ONE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
9	KAPITAN AMBO
10	JOY RIDE

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE ONE
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	GLITTER
7	HARRY POTTER

METRO EAST 632-9115-16/633-7041

1	KAPITAN AMBO
2	DUGONG ASO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	GLITTER
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	HARRY POTTER

NOVALICHES 936-3229 TO 31

1	SERENDIPITY
2	SERENDIPITY
3	DUGONG ASO
4	HARRY POTTER
5	HARRY POTTER
6	HARRY POTTER
7	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
8	KAPITAN AMBO

IMUS (046) 471-0188

1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	KAPITAN AMBO

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRIP

ILOILO (033) 336-0077 / 0078

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	HARRY POTTER
4	SOON TO OPEN
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SIDHI / CLIMAX
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ROBEN	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
B	KAPITAN AMBO
C	DUGONG ASO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUGONG ASO
CINEMA-2	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-3	TRIP
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
CINEMA-6	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-14	GLITTER
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5	GLITTER
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Vandolph's second life

(From page A24)

She said the entire family, especially Guia, feels so sorry for him.

My prayer is that Vandolph be given another lease on life and hopefully the accident will make him realize that there must be even just a little room for Gabrielle in his "second life."

Just asking

• Could it be true that one of the reasons **Troy Montero** and **Nikki Valdez** split up is Nikki's excessive nagging? Too many questions will make any man feel that he is always being cross-examined, and when that's the case the woman must cross her fingers and hope he would stay.

• Will MCA Universal be compelled to stop all sales of **Martin Nievera**'s platinum album "My Souvenirs" due to alleged copyright violations? The controversy stemmed from EMI's claim that Martin's song "To Say Goodbye" is an unauthorized re-recording of **Dianne Warren**'s "We Just Don't Know How To Say Goodbye" (Warren composed such hits as "How Do I Live" and "Because You Love Me"). No doubt Martin knows how to say sorry, so I just hope his "Souvenirs" won't turn out to be tears and souvenirs for MCA Universal.

True Faith's newest

My current favorite song is True Faith's "Basta Ngumiti Ka Lang." It reminds me how to smile on days when there is really nothing worth smiling about. Just like most of True Faith's songs, the lyrics are so simple yet profound and have such an endearing melody. Listening to the album makes you feel like you are thinking out loud.

Lead vocalist **Medwin Marfil**, who composes most of True Faith's songs, has outdone himself again with the Nov. 23 release of True Faith's live album "MYXed Emotions LIVE at Halo-Halo." It's a first in the band scene. The album could not have come at a better time. The band recently won the Awit awards for best performance by a duo or a group for the song "Kung OK Lang Sa 'Yo" and best album packaging for "Memories are Cheap."

Regine Onstage

WITH arrangements by musical director **Raul Mitra**, **Regine Velasquez** again brought delight to her audience with her powerful renditions of movie theme songs during her weekend shows at the Music Museum. These included Dirty Dancing's "Time of my Life," Con Air's "How do I Live?" Titanic's "My Heart Will Go On," to name a few.

This weekend, it's Makati's turn to experience the same treat and with even more surprsises as Regine moves to Onstage Greenbelt for the rest of the series, "Regine at the Movies."

Catch it on Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7-8, 15-16, 21-22 and 29-30 at Onstage, second floor of Greenbelt Mall. Show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets at P1,200, P900 and P600 are available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), National Bookstore, Robinsons Galleria, Tower Records, Onstage ticketron and Maxi-Media (551-5447).

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Nothing succeeds like excess

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WITH the entry of two new game shows on ABC 5 starting last week the weeknight TV schedule has become a dizzying whirl of quiz and game shows starting at 7 p.m. Choose your wild:

At 7 p.m. on Channel 2, "Game Ka Na Ba?" At 7:30 p.m., "Wheel of Fortune" on Channel 5 and "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan" on Channel 7.

At 8 p.m. on Channel 5, "Family Feud." At 8:30 p.m. on Channel 13, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" And at 9:30 p.m. on Channel 13, "The Weakest Link."

Six quiz or game shows per weekday evening? What a crazy, mixed-up whirl! And that doesn't even include the quiz or game portions on noontime TV shows, or the game or quiz shows telecast on weekends, like Channel 5's third new game show, "The Price Is Right," aired every Saturday.

On Philippine TV, nothing succeeds like excess!

Last year, it was the soap opera format that held sway on the tube (both local and Mexican varieties). The trend continues to hold sway today, but the quiz or game shows are definitely threatening it for video supremacy.

But we sense that this new trend won't last as long as the telenovelas and local soaps. This is due to the fact that drama serials can have varied plots and styles, while game or quiz programs follow more rigid formats, and thus tend to duplicate each other.

Thus, boredom and predictability are more frequent consequences of a phenomenon like the current glut of quiz and game shows on the tube.

Be that as it may, the game and quiz shows keep coming, and only subsequent weeks' ratings will indicate which of them will have long or short lifespans.

A big factor appears to be the amount of money that can be won on any given show, with the million-peso top pots generating the greatest excitement, not just among contestants but with televiewers as well.

Thus, top-prize shows like "Millionaire," "Game Ka Na Ba," "Korek na Korek" and "Weakest Link" hit the spot with viewers and contestants. If a new show offers a P5-M pot at the end of its psychedelic rainbow, you can bet that it'll be the latest hit of the TV season. Times are hard and, for the big winners, game and quiz shows offer the softest solutions.

But even the most dazzling prizes can ultimately be done in by surfeit and overkill, and that's exactly what's happening even now to the latest trend to shake up the idiot box.

You certainly don't need to be a genius to predict that, this time next year, many of the game and quiz shows now on TV shall have given their Final Answers, and bade their last Goodbyes.

'La Fantome de la Liberte'

THE CINEMANILA filmfest that opens in Makati on Dec. 7 will screen, not just new films, but a number of film classics and celebrated experimental movies. One of them is **Luis Bunuel**'s "La Fantome de la Liberte."

The 1974 production stars **Monica Vitti**, **Jean Rochefort** and **Jean-Claude Brialy**.

This dreamlike, surreal film looks playfully at politics, religion and sex. It offers tantalizing fragments of narrative that it explores briefly, then leaves behind:

A child accepts some strange photographs from an unsavory character, only the images aren't what you would expect.

A nurse spends the night at an inn and meets some bizarre priests. A sniper climbs up a skyscraper and shoots at the crowds below, only to become a celebrity.

And tearful parents beg the police to find their missing child—who keeps insisting that she isn't lost.

Vandolph's second life

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN news broke out that **Vandolph** figured in a vehicular accident, the first person that crossed my mind is his love child, **Gabrielle**, whose mom is my friend **Guia Avante**.

Vandolph may have not categorically admitted that he is the father of my godchild but people in the know can attest to the fact that Gabrielle is indeed his *unica hija*. I respect Vandolph's decision to be mum about the issue.

I was deeply moved when *Tita* **Bing Avante**, Guia's mom, texted me saying that they are all praying for Vandolph.

VANDOLPH'S/ A23

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Dream Girl
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HARRY POTTER - GP 12:05, 3:15, 6:25, 9:35	GLITTER - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

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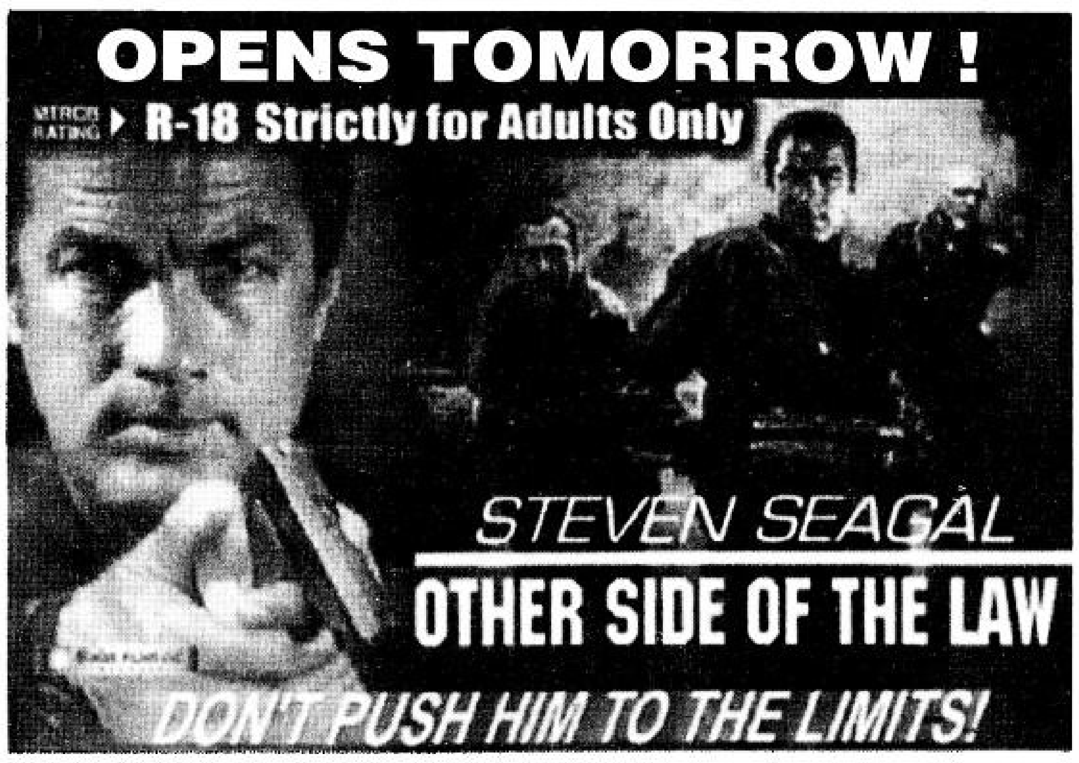

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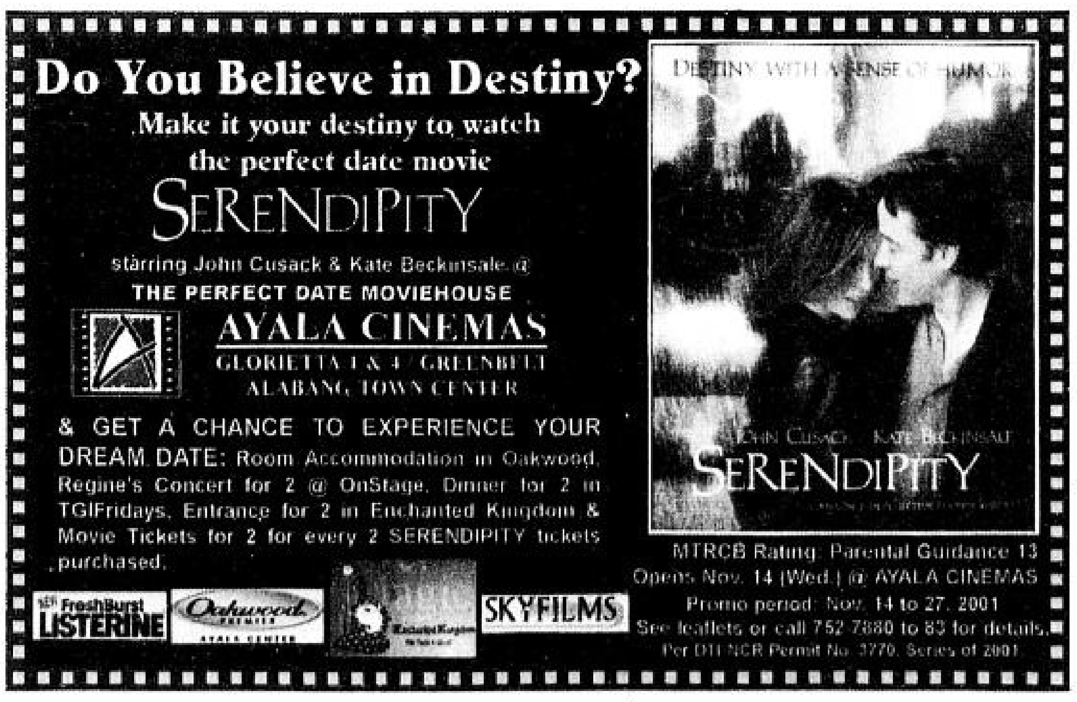
RODEL VELAYO LEONARDO LITTON and BARBARA MILANO
ALLAN PAULE JOHN APACIBLE PAULA GOMEZ
Tikim
written & directed by JOSE JAVIER REYES
a SEIKO FILMS presentation



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Treasury bill rates hit 4-month low

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COST of the government's borrowings fell for the third straight week yesterday as a less skeptical fixed-income market dragged the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate down by another 0.227 percentage point to 9.298 percent, its lowest in four months.

Yields of longer-dated treasuries went down by two to three times the decline of the government's benchmark borrowing rate as the six-month debt notes shed 0.544 percentage point to 10.453 percent and the one-year instrument dropped 0.739 point to 11.242 percent.

Offers reached more than P7 billion, allowing the government to raise P1 billion each from the shorter-dated treasuries and P1.5 billion from the one-year debt notes.

Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said the financial market that was obviously awash with cash had no other choice but to park its funds in government securities, which have become more attractive as doubts that the Macapagal administration would exceed its budget deficit target this year simmered down.

Traders agreed that the government's borrowing notes became more attractive as prospects that the national government would contain its deficit to P145 billion or even lower became brighter.

Last week, the government reported a lower-than-target budget gap of P133.319 billion as of October, or P4.384 billion lower than the programmed amount of P137.703 billion for the first 10 months of the year.

A usually skeptical trader from a foreign bank said the 10-month deficit level was encouraging and gave the fixed-income market a "quiet confidence" that the government might be able to nail its deficit this year to P145 billion.

"I think the government has convinced the market that it would meet the deficit target, and the speculations that the target would be surpassed was slowly being addressed," Mendiola said.

Another fixed-income trader pointed out that lower bids were also influenced by expectations that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would ease its monetary policy further before the year ends.

The central bank is preparing to bring down banks' reserve requirement by as much as two percentage points in December, a move that would free up about P26 billion worth of funds back into the system.

A trader said that if the Bangko Sentral indeed eases on the mandated reserves, banks would have more funds to invest in government securities at a time of limited investment opportunities.

Mendiola said the government would allow banks to load up on more treasuries through a tap facility or over-the-counter of as much as P2 billion in the coming weeks.

In the first quarter next year, the Bureau of Treasury had announced that the government would issue P28 billion worth of treasury bonds and bills every month from January to March.

The plan, based on the borrowing program of the treasury, is to raise P4 billion from the weekly auction of treasuries.

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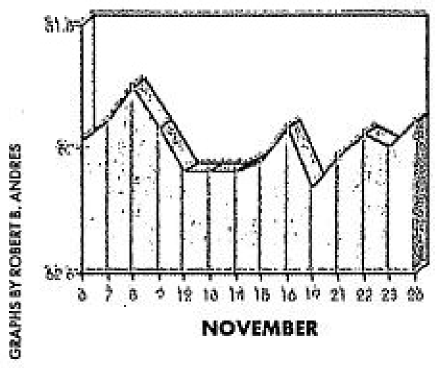


NOVEMBER

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

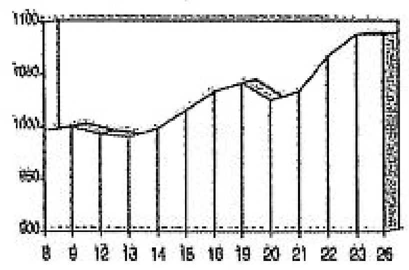
P 51.890 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 26, 2001

¥ 124.06 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 26, 2001

GOLD:$272.80/273.30
per ounce Hong Kong,
Nov. 26, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



NOVEMBER

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares down

SHARE prices ended marginally lower yesterday with investors taking profits after last week's three-day rally, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 0.09 point to 1,088.37. Gainers led decliners 41 to 26, while 29 issues were unchanged as investors still found reason to position in the market given the recent spate of positive political and economic developments, traders said.

"We've been up for so many days, so this is just profit-taking. I think it's a healthy correction," said Allan Araullo of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Positive developments in the Afghan campaign as well as the arrest of Philippine Muslim leader Nur Misuari in Malaysia had pushed the market higher in early trade before investors took profits.

"The Afghan war is winding down and the concerns on (Muslim leader Nur) Misuari have been eliminated with his arrest in Malaysia," said Leo Venezuela at Unicapital Securities.

Sentiment was still receiving a boost from the promises of aid and trade packages that President Macapagal-Arroyo brought home

SHARES/ B3

Belltel, Destiny form alliance

BELL Telecommunication Philippines Inc. has signed an agreement with cable television service provider Destiny Cable Inc. for the provision of converged broadband services to local consumers.

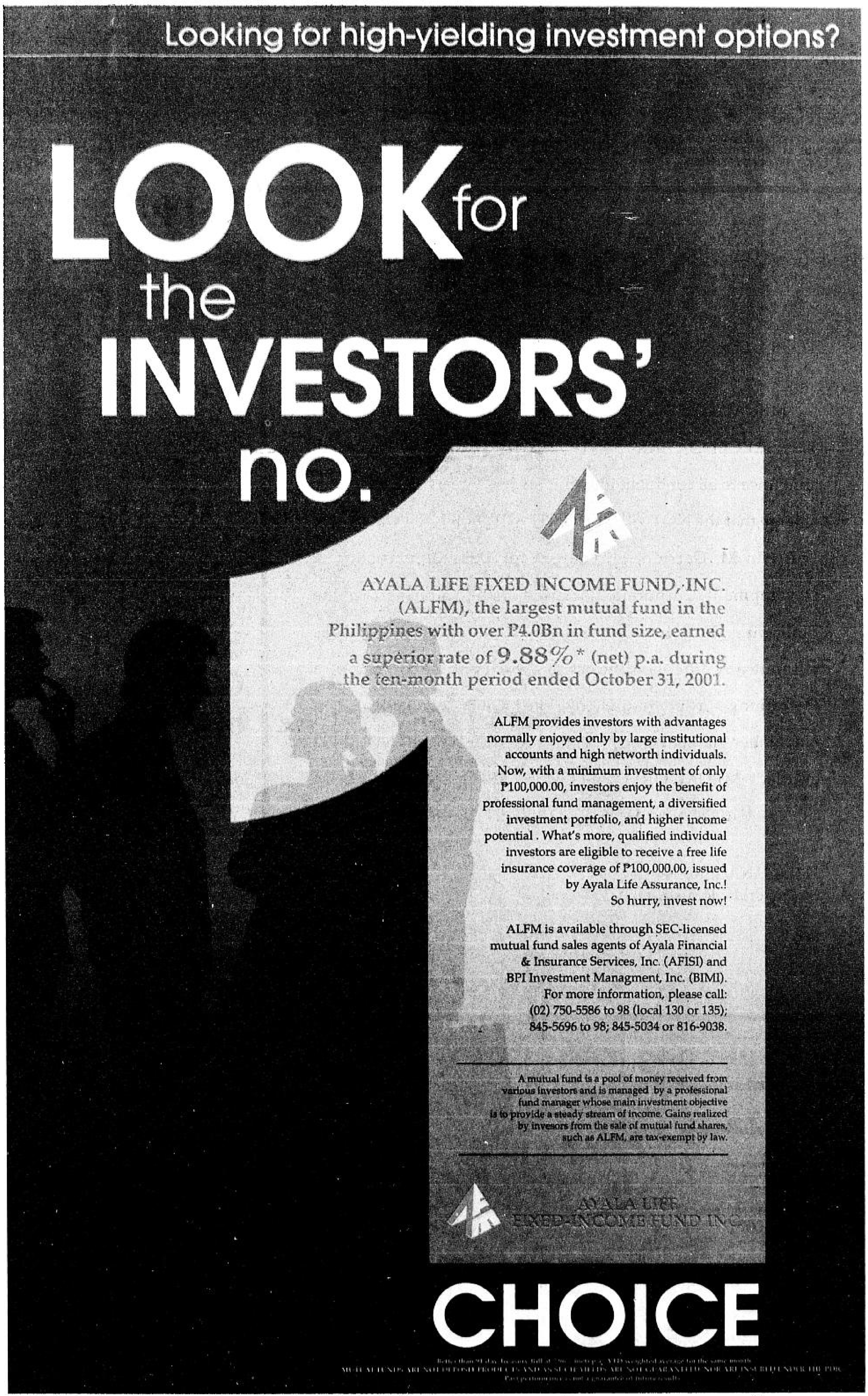
Under the agreement, BellTel will package its own product lineup for the delivery of Internet, cable TV and telephone services with Destiny's cable TV service.

Belltel's i-Direct PCI will now be available to Metro Manila customers. This is a cable Internet service that will use Belltel's Internet bandwidth and Destiny's cable connectivity.

With this new service, Belltel will be able to launch a truly convergent telecommunications service in the country by early next year, offering Internet, cable TV and telephone in one service.

"We see our alliance with Destiny Cable to be a landmark achievement in the history of Philippine telecommunications and cable TV. It provides an excellent opportunity for us to better penetrate residential and business districts, providing the market convergent solutions that provide both entertain-

BELLTEL/ B4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	SELLING	BUYING
*1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,350,000
*2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,600,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	190,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	200,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		280,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
*19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	15,000,000	
*20. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,700,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000	650,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	350,000
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
*32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	800,000	750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	600,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	180,000	
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	
*38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,800,000	

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3 groups submit bids for NSC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry-led evaluation committee yesterday accepted the detailed offer sheets submitted by local firms Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. and Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co,. and Voest Alpine of Austria for a contract to lease and rehabilitate the shuttered Iligan plant of National Steel Corp.

The committee will start the formal presentation of each offer by tomorrow, Nov. 28, and it is confident that it will be able to come up with its choice before the end of this month.

Capasco, Allengoal and Voest Alpine earlier submitted separate offers to lease the NSC facilities in October but the committee rejected all of them for failing to comply with any of the requirements laid out in the terms of reference even if these were "liberally interpreted."

This time, the three companies have put more flesh into their business plans and financial plans to allow the committee to make a more intelligent choice in picking the best offer for NSC.

The business plan covers the plant's rehabilitation and re-operation, technical expertise, raw material supply and marketing strategy. The financial plan contains the lease offer, financing for rehabilitation and maintenance.

Capasco identified its partners and a detailed capital spending plan for NSC but did not submit a lease offer. Allengoal submitted a lease offer but did not elaborate on its business plans and financing sources. Voest Alpine offered to operate NSC in a tie-up with its present owners.

But Capasco has warned the DTI-led committee not to allow major modifications in the offer sheets submitted in October. Allengoal lawyer Celso P. delas Alas said that it was made clear during the meeting with the committee members on Nov. 7 that the three should only submit business and financial plans to support their offers and that these offers should not be changed.

"To allow such alterations to these parties' basic offers would be giving undue advantage to some parties at the expense of another," delas Alas said.

Also, delas Alas stressed that Allengoal's participation in the process was based on the premise that the committee seeks solely to assist the Securities and Exchange Commission in determining a suitable lease arrangement for the NSC Iligan plant. Allengoal has a pending case with the SEC seeking to uphold its lease arrangement with the NSC management submitted last year.

The committee—composed of government agencies, NSC majority owner Hottick-Renong, and creditors led by Philippine National Bank—was initiated by the DTI to break the two-year stalemate between owners and creditors which has kept NSC's Iligan facilities shut for two years.

The committee wants NSC to run on an interim basis (and prevent its assets from being wasted) while the SEC untangles the messy affair between NSC's owners and creditors. The committee's choice would be endorsed to the SEC Liquidator which has taken over NSC's assets.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of November 27, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.350.000	1.4 M/1.450,000 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	740,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	375,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	-	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	80,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	300,000/400,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	14 M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.6M	2,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/800,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	150,000/160,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	350,000/600,000**	450,000*/650**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000***	425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	140,000	150,000/Pls call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	500,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,600,000	1,850,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000 *
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	370,000	375,000/750,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	600,000	650,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	6M	6.8 M

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DOE readies rules for gas industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is drafting the rules that will govern the local downstream natural gas industry in view of the development of the other uses of this resource other than for power generation.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said he had held discussions with senior officials of the United States' energy department last week regarding the matter.

"They gave me an overview of how the US' downstream industry is governed and this will help greatly in developing our own rules," Perez said.

The secretary said the DOE was targeting to come up by March with the implementing rules. The rules, he added, do not necessarily have to pass the Congress.

At present, indigenous natural gas is used only for generating electricity.

By next year, gas from the Malampaya field will be running three power plants with combined generating capacity of 2,700 mw.

Also, energy officials say the smaller natural gas reserve in Isabela province was also being tapped to produce between 5 and 10 megawatts of power.

The government is working on the expansion of the natural gas market in the country by developing its other uses. Being eyed as a possible big market is the transport sector.

In an earlier interview, Perez said Japanese and German firms were offering technical assistance to the government for the development and promotion of vehicles that run on compressed natural gas.

He said the companies were manufacturers of CNG-fed buses and trucks.

The secretary said that the use of CNG for fuel was easiest to promote in fleet-managed vehicles.

NOTICE

TO ALL CONCERNED

MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC., owner/developer of THE SALCEDO PARK CONDOMINIUM PROJECT, wishes to announce to all condominium unit owners/buyers and the public at large that the NOTICE OF CONTRACTOR'S LIEN which Atty. Wilfredo M. Garrido, Jr., counsel for DSM Construction & Development Corporation, caused to be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and other metropolitan dailies is without any force and effect in view of the existence of a restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals on November 20, 2001 in connection with CA-GR SP No. 67432 entitled MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC. vs. DSM CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CORP. ET AL.

THE MANAGEMENT
Megaworld Globus Asia, Inc.

Exporters urged to support gov't clustering strategy

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is urging exporters to work closer with the government in implementing its clustering strategy that will help the country withstand the global slump.

ROXAS

In a speech during the opening ceremonies of the National Exporters Week, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said a partnership between the government and the private sector has become more crucial now that the country is striving to reverse the current downtrend, exploit opportunities and position the economy to a sustained economic growth fueled by exports and investments.

Roxas said the DTI has agreed to adopt industry clustering as a key strategy to spur industry and export development that would involve the integration of forward and backward linkages into allied industries. Under the clustering strategy, the government is planning to encourage allied industries to put up their operations in the same places to achieve economies of scale.

Roxas said the DTI had asked several state economic agencies led by the National Economic and Development Authority in drawing up the Philippine Export Development Plan for 2002 to 2004. Other strategies in the PEDP include product and market diversification, and development of policies to improve environment for exporters.

Earlier, Roxas pushed for an expansion of its basket of export products simultaneously with its efforts to explore new export markets in order to weather the slump in major global economies.

Roxas said a more diverse export portfolio and broader market base would help the country sustain the growth of its export industry, the lifeblood of the country's economy. At present, semiconductor and electronic products, which are going through their worst downturn in 40 years, account for more than 60 percent of the country's export revenues.

Roxas said the drive to develop new products and find new markets has become more urgent considering the declining trend in the country's exports which fell 22 percent to $2.731 billion in September this year from $3.502 billion during the same period last year.

The DTI had projected a 10-percent drop in exports this year in view of the economic slump in the world's largest economies—the US and Japan. The decline, however, may further deepen following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11.

Gov't secures $243M worth of agricultural loans from US

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES has secured some $243 million worth of financial assistance from the United States to help modernize the country's agriculture sector.

In a news conference, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor announced that the Philippines obtained a mix of financial guarantees, credits and grants from Washington.

On top of these commitments, the United States also agreed to extend some $40 million worth of "commodity loans" under the US Public Law 480 Program, Montemayor said. These loans will be in the form of surplus rice, corn, soybean meal and feed peas that the Philippine government may sell, he added.

"It matches the PL480 program loans we have secured this year. However, the mix of surplus commodities will still be finalized," Montemayor told reporters.

He said discussions were also taking place regarding additional grants under the US Food Aid Program. This would allow the Philippines to secure financial grants other than the $40 million worth of commodity loans.

Apart from the US Food Aid Program, agricultural export credit guarantees worth over $150 million were also earmarked for the Philippines. These guarantees may be used to back up loans by importers of US-made agricultural machinery and other inputs.

Montemayor also disclosed that the United States agreed to fund a $52-million solar-powered irrigation project in southern Mindanao. The project, he said, was being worked out by the National Irrigation Administration and the World Water Corp. of the United States.

"If this would be pursued, the project could irrigate five regions, especially southern Mindanao, and cover up to 10,000 hectares," Montemayor said.

He said the solar-power irrigation project would focus on remote upland areas where canal-type irrigation was difficult to use.

Financing for this project is expected from the US Export-Import Bank.

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GOINGS-ON

'Dare to fail' seminar rescheduled

TOP author and "failure" guru Billi Lim's first ever "Dare To Fail" seminar scheduled for Nov. 29, 2001 at Dusit Hotel Nikko has been reset for mid February next year. For more particulars, please call 750-1499 or email babylonsisters99@yahoo.com.

Deutsche Bank on cash management

DEUTSCHE Bank last week hosted an event titled "Moving Forward" in Manila as part of a series of Deutsche Bank-sponsored forums to discuss cash management trends and challenges currently faced by corporations in Asia.

The discussion highlighted key issues that the adoption of the Internet is raising for cash management clients. In particular, recent advances in technology have resulted in corporations constantly looking for faster cash flow and new customer communication channels to improve their payment cycles.

Metrobank is SSS depository bank

METROBANK, the country's largest bank, has been designated as depository bank of the Social Security System by the Monetary Board.

This follows the Monetary Board's approval of the request of the SSS for the designation of certain private banks as its depository banks, allowing them to accept deposits from the SSS.

Under the terms of approval, Metrobank may accept deposits from the SSS beyond its minimum working balance, provided that the total deposits will not exceed the sum of the minimum working balance and outstanding loan obligations of the SSS with the bank.

RP, S. Korea start talks on air rights deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES and South Korea will renegotiate their air rights agreement starting Wednesday with the objective of increasing the flight frequencies and capacity entitlements of both countries' flag carriers.

The talks will be held in Seoul, South Korea. Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez will chair the Philippine delegation while Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin will serve as vice chair. The other members of the panel are representatives of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) and the Department of Tourism.

In an interview yesterday, CAB deputy executive director Carmelo Arcilla said there was really a need for both countries to seek additional flights per week because their existing entitlements were already fully utilized.

"Korea has fully utilized its capacity entitlement and it has a high load factor. The last air rights agreement (between the two countries) was signed in the late 1990s," he said.

Having a fully utilized capacity entitlement means that a country has been using its entire allotted weekly flights. Load factor pertains to the number of passengers that a country's flag carrier brings in to another country as compared with its total entitlement.

Arcilla said a load factor of at least 70 percent was already good enough for a country to ask for additional entitlements.

He also cited the huge number of Koreans visiting the country as another reason for working on increased seat entitlements for both countries' flag carriers.

The existing Philippines-Korea air rights agreement allows 13 flights weekly from Manila to Korea and vice versa.

Arcilla said that the extent of the increase in capacity and frequency entitlements would be discussed during the negotiations, which will be held in Seoul, South Korea.

Representatives of the two countries' flag carriers will sit in the negotiations as observers.

At present, only Philippine Airlines serves all of the country's 13 entitlements.

Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air, which just started its international operations on Nov. 22, is expected to get its share if the country will get additional entitlements.

Caltex seen to miss ₱1-B profit target

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CALTEX Philippines Inc. country chair Nicholas Florio said last week that the company might miss its net income target for this year of P1 billion.

In an interview, Florio said that as of last September, the company's profit amounted to only P200 million. This led Caltex to scale down its net income target to a range of only P500 million to P600 million by end-December.

The September profit, he said, was a big improvement compared to a net loss of P500 million recorded in the same period last year.

"We are having difficulty in meeting our income target mainly because consumption (of petroleum products) has been falling while the peso has been weakening against the dollar," Florio said.

He said the low demand has forced Caltex to cut down the operating capacity of its refinery in Batangas.

Florio said the $745-million refinery was processing 72,000 barrels of crude per day, down 10 percent from its maximum capacity of 80,000 barrels a day.

Despite the market slump, he said Caltex would push through with its $50-million capital expenditure program.

In an earlier interview, he said the fund was earmarked for the establishment of new service stations.

"We will also go ahead with the expansion of our StarMarts (the convenience stores in Caltex service stations)," Florio added.

Caltex data show that as of last year, the company has a total of 901 service stations and 52 StarMart outlets.

Florio said Caltex would also spend $4 million to put up a liquefied petroleum gas depot in Cebu that can hold 2,000 metric tons of LPG.

Caltex corners 20 percent of the local market making it the third biggest oil firm in the country.

Recently, its parent company Texaco Inc. merged with Chevron Corp. that created the second-largest oil company based in the United States.

Caltex's parent company also has a 45-percent stake in the multibillion-dollar Malampaya gas-to-power project.

Shares

(From page B1)

from the United States, he added.

Turnover fell to 828.69 million shares but value rose to P527.9 million from Friday's 1.16 billion shares worth P495 million.

The market had been technically ripe for a pullback after three consecutive days of gains last week and with the 14-day Relative Strength Indicator (RSI) in overbought territory. The RSI closed at 80.676 points after finishing at 80.754 on Friday. A level of 70 points and above indicates an overbought market and 30 points oversold. *AFP, AP*

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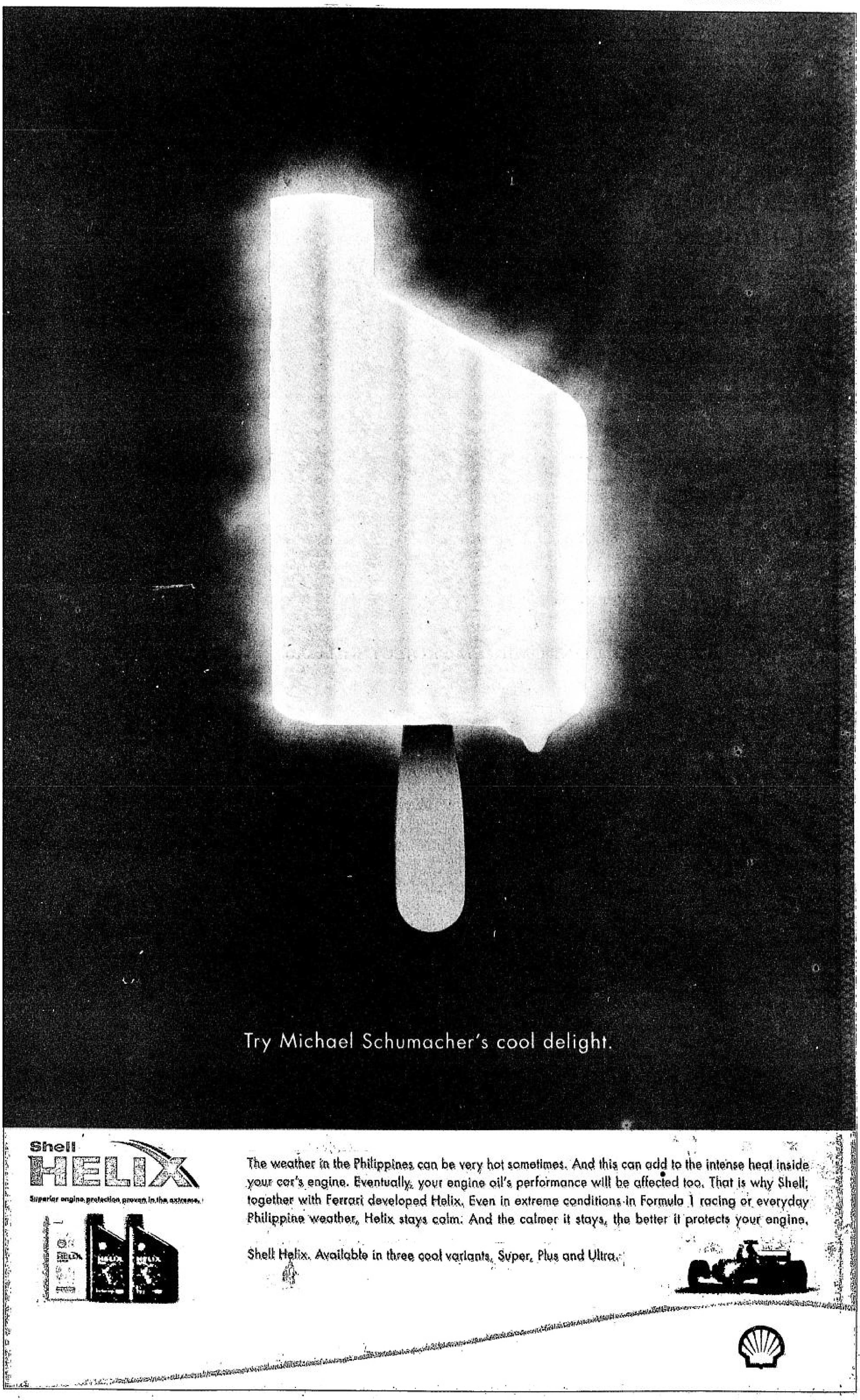
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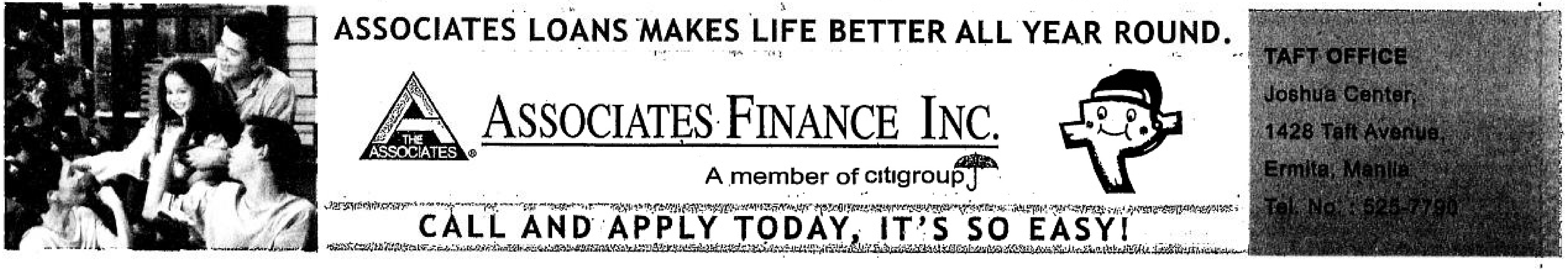
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Yuchengco eyes All Asia Life; Legacy keen on pre-need unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE YUCHENGCO group has started discussions to acquire All Asia Life while Legacy Scholarship Plans has offered to buy All Asia Plans, Securities and Exchange commissioner Edijer Martinez said yesterday.

All Asia Capital and Trust Corp., the holding company of the All Asia group, has identified the sale of the life insurance company and the pre-need firm as integral components of the company's rehabilitation plan.

Martinez said that Permanent Plans has backed out of its bid to also acquire All Asia Plans.

The Yuchengco group counts among its members Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. and Great Pacific Life Corp., among the leading non-life and life insurance companies in the Philippines.

All Asia filed last July a petition for rehabilitation with the Makati regional trial court, which has granted the request and appointed former SEC associate commissioner Danilo Concepcion as All Asia's receiver.

As of June 30 this year, All Asia had P7.1 billion in liabilities and P5 billion in assets.

Last year, the SEC issued a cease-and-desist order against All Asia Capital after it found that the investment house violated some of the country's securities laws.

Its license to operate as an investment house lapsed in end-July this year and has not been renewed by the SEC.

Aside from International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, and Hong Kong-based fund Lombard, All Asia shareholders include the Tanco family, Land Bank of the Philippines, AFP-RSBS and the Garcia family.

All Asia Capital is still preparing a revised rehabilitation plan to submit to the Makati court.

Earlier, All Asia Capital president Roy Joseph Rafols said that All Asia would propose to keep P600 million in assets for working capital and use the rest of the assets to pay off secured creditors.

All Asia would then either restructure the remaining unpaid debt into long-term debt or convert the obligations into redeemable preferred shares.

"I would like to have a legitimate viable plan to submit and we're working with our auditors and creditors to do that," Rafols said.

He plans to present the concept for the revised rehabilitation plan to their creditors next month.

Belltel, Destiny form alliance

(From page A1)

ment and communications at lower rates and higher quality of service," Belltel vice president for sales and marketing Joby de Belen said.

He added that its access to Destiny's fiber optic and cable facilities would greatly complement its existing network of fiber optic and broadband fixed wireless network.

"We are looking forward to this partnership with BellTel, as it allows us additional avenues of distribution using our existing infrastructure," Destiny's chief operating officer James Uy said.

He said Destiny's "world class cable network" would allow BellTel to offer a whole suite of telecommunications services: leased lines, broadband Internet and telephony. Destiny's network spans majority of the Metro Manila area.

Belltel currently offers broadband Internet access for the business and consumer market through its fixed wireless system. Its i-Direct service integrates telephony and high-speed Internet access into one service. It covers majority of the Metro Manila area as well as some provinces south of it. *Abigail L. Ho*

$100-M BOND FLOAT

Vice President and concurrent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. answers a query during the launching of the $100-million bond flotation for overseas Filipino workers. Part of the earnings of the bonds will finance OFWs' health care coverage, insurance benefits and weekly lotteries with at least $10,000 prize. With Guingona are (from left) National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Merlin Magallona.

Estanislao, Leung vie for top PSE post

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RACE for the presidency of the Philippine Stock Exchange is now down to two former finance ministers: Jesus Estanislao and Ernest Leung.

INQUIRER sources said the two had expressed interest in an offer from the PSE board to replace Ramon T. Garcia, who was forced to go on leave until his term expires next March.

PSE chair Felipe Yap has committed to the Securities and Exchange Commission that a new president would be named during the next board meeting tomorrow. The SEC earlier told Yap that unless a new president was named before Nov. 29, the corporate watchdog itself would appoint an acting president.

Estanislao, currently CEO of the Institute for Corporate Directors, is an economist and an advocate of good corporate governance. He was economic planning and finance minister during the Aquino administration.

Leung, on the other hand, served briefly as finance secretary during the Ramos administration and was later named president of Philippine Deposit Insurance Co. The most recent post he held was chair of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

ESTANISLAO

LEUNG

The sources said the other prominent businessmen earlier considered by the PSE have already declined the offer: among them banker Octavio Espiritu, former Social Security System administrator Renato Valencia and former finance minister Vicente Jayme.

But the new president will serve only the unexpired term of Garcia until March next year. Some PSE sources were skeptical on the assurances made by the incumbent PSE board that the new president would be reelected for a two-year term during the membership meeting to be held in March, when a new board would likewise be elected.

"How can they give such an assurance when they still don't know who is going to win as board members yet? The most prudent thing to do is to let the new board decide on the matter," a source from the PSE board said.

Garcia, who was eased out by the PSE board due to his strong stance on the Fort Bonifacio relocation issue, is still expected to be a strong contender as PSE president for a full term starting next March should his ally in the board, veteran broker Robert Coyiuto, be successful in a bid to be elected as PSE chair.

With Coyiuto's support, Garcia was able to generate proxies from majority of the PSE's member-brokers when he was dismissed by the incumbent board on the heels of the bourse's row with the Metro Pacific group on the PSE relocation to the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The board and Garcia, however, managed to avert what could have been a heated membership meeting when they arrived at an amicable settlement. The board lifted the termination order on Garcia on condition that Garcia would go on terminal leave until his term expires this March.

VETO POWER

Gov't wavers on PNB demand

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the government has dropped a plan to secure a veto power in Philippine National Bank in the event that PNB's 67-percent block to be sold through a joint sale would be acquired by Lucio Tan.

A veto power would have given the government a final say in any decision-making issue in the bank even after a joint sale with Tan.

But the taipan has reportedly rejected the government's veto proposal even after he had insisted on getting a right of first offer, an assurance that the block to be sold jointly would be offered to him first.

Camacho, whom sources had earlier described to be bent on securing a veto power, appeared to have given up.

Instead of a veto power, the government would convince Tan to give the government a put-option or an opportunity to sell its remaining stake to the taipan if he would end up controlling PNB anew after a joint sale of the two groups.

"The last outstanding point is how to deal with the residual shares if the buyer of the block that we would sell jointly would be Lucio Tan and not a third party," the finance secretary said.

A debt-to-equity conversion of part of a P25-billion emergency loan extended by the government to PNB in October 2000 would increase the state equity in the country's sixth largest bank to 44.98 percent from 16 percent, at par with the taipan's, whose stake would be diluted from 67 percent.

An agreement on the exit mechanism is delaying the deal that would convert P7.8 billion of PNB debts into government equity, offset P10 billion of government advances from PNB, and restructure the remaining P6.1 billion as part of the bank's rehabilitation over a 10-year period. PNB has already paid P1.1 billion of its debts to the central bank.

The joint sale provision in the pending agreement would require the government and Tan to pool about 37 percent each to be able to sell a stake that would be attractive to investors since a 67-percent equity would give the buyer a super-majority control of the bank.

Pooling 37 percent each would leave both groups with about 8 percent each, a situation that could become problematic for the government if Tan would decide to buy the joint stake.

"We are trying to reformulate the exit mechanism and instead of a veto power, we would ask for a put option. This means we could sell to Tan the residual shares. We won't really care anymore after he buys our remaining stake," Camacho said.

The finance chief admitted that the government had agreed to give Tan a right-of-first-offer. "He has to indicate first if he wanted to buy the block that we are selling," Camacho noted.

He explained that an exit mechanism must be discussed as part of the debt-to-equity deal to ensure a long-term recovery of the bank.

On Nov. 14, both the government and Tan reported that they have agreed on several important points including the P40 per share price that would convert part of PNB's P25 billion in debts into government equity.

Of the P25 billion, P15 billion was owed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and P10 billion to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

On management control in PNB, the two groups have agreed to nominate one independent director each and appoint four representatives each to the 11-member board.

DISCLOSURES

IONICS Inc. announced the election of Corazon dela Paz as director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Vitaliano Nañagas II.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary, **Philippine Gaming Management Corp.,** will buy 100 lottery terminals in the amount of $520,000 for its equipment lease agreement with **Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.**

* * *

ABACUS Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.36 to P0.54 per share.

* * *

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 45-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.11 to P0.16 per share.

* * *

FEDERAL Chemicals Inc. said its final offer price for its initial public offering was P7 per share with net proceeds expected to reach P81.9 million.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Filsyn Corp.** were Patricio Lim, Douglas Hsu, Johnny Shih, Champion Lee, Renato Diaz, Felipe Yap, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Florentino Herrera III, George Go, Raphael Lerner, David Wang and Jaime Sto. Domingo.

* * *

ISLAND Information & Technology Inc. announced that Caesar Dulay earlier decided to resign as corporate secretary. Elected to replace him was Serafin Linda. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, November 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52.5	51	51	420,300
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.25	18.5	17.75	17.75	523,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	180	179	180	225,530
Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	101,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	14	15	14	14.5	51,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	5,280
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1140	1130	1135	3,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	38,600
Diversified Fin. Network	5	5	4.8	4.8	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	1,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	575	560	560	4,350
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	1,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	395	395	390	390	71,750
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	113,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.5	74,500
Manila Electric Co. B	30	32.5	30	31	1,983,700
Petron Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.38	11,194,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.54	1.62	1.52	1.56	7,050,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	220,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.87	0.87	150,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	78,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2	2	100,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	238,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	1,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	25	24	24.25	4,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	76.5	76.5	76.5	76.5	300
RFM Corp.	2	2.06	2	2	911,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	42	142,000
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	52	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.51	0.58	0.51	0.57	170,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.55	4.8	3,182,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	236,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.65	0.59	0.64	1,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.67	0.6	0.63	22,740,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.19	0.15	0.155	5,670,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.085	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.9	0.9	670,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25	26.5	25	26	190,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	900,000
Gueco Holdings (Phils.)	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6.3	6	6.2	639,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.61	0.64	2,840,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.34	0.29	0.3	8,810,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.36	0.36	19,510,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.34	0.34	3,930,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	22,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.115	0.115	1,650,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.25	2,800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	27,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	140,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	580,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24	24	5,471,900
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	365	365	365	365	30
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	25,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	'10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.006	0.005	0.0055	432,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.8	9,928,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.19	0.19	2,600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	2,660,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.23	0.23	6,570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.74	1.6	1.68	8,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,122,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	1,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	310,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.7	2.2	1.7	2	3,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	18,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	22,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	60,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	19,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	60,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	900,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,352,410	87,983,345.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	701,867,930	329,290,670.00
PRO	38,540,000	109,435,190.00
Mining	57,073,000	677,100.00
OIL	28,980,000	356,500.00
GRAND TOTALS :	827,813,340	527,742,805.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	433.70	DOWN 3.05
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,506.13	UP 0.08
PRO	495.05	UP 5.02
Mining	968.06	UP 10.30
OIL	1.35	UP 0.09
All Shares Index	688.56	UP 7.07
Composite	1,088.37	DOWN 0.09

NO. OF ADVANCES: 41; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96 NO. OF TRADES: 3,323

CURRENCIES

Nov. 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.138174	1.000000	51.9820
Japan	Yen	0.009160	0.008048	0.4184
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604598	1.409800	73.2842
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145937	0.128220	6.6651
Switzerland	Franc	0.683219	0.600276	31.2035
Canada	Dollar	0.712071	0.625626	32.5213
Singapore	Dollar	0.619247	0.544070	28.2818
Australia	Dollar	0.588204	0.516796	26.8641
Bahrain	Dinar	3.019191	2.652661	137.8906
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303522	0.266674	13.8622
Brunei	Dollar	0.618237	0.543183	28.2357
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000095	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025791	0.022660	1.1779
UAE	Dirham	0.309918	0.272294	14.1544
Korea	Won	0.000904	0.000794	0.0413
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.878600	45.6714
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.449221	23.3514
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133942	6.9626
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.398691	20.7248
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.063850	3.3191
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021780	1.1322
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000454	0.0236
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147770	7.6814
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004382	0.2278
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00528	0.2745
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02178	1.1322
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.115592	57.9907

NO SECRET

Hong Kong seen slipping into recession

HONG KONG—It may be no secret to anyone who has lost a job, taken a pay cut or watched the value of their home slide, but Hong Kong is expected to confirm on Friday what everyone already suspects: the territory has slipped into recession.

Economists polled by Reuters on average expected third-quarter data to show the economy contracted 2.07 percent in the quarter year-on-year. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the consensus among economists making a projection was for a 1.2-percent fall.

The economy grew 0.5 percent in the second quarter year-on-year but contracted 1.7 percent on a quarter-on-quarter, seasonally adjusted basis. Another negative quarter-on-quarter figure would satisfy the common definition of a recession.

And it's not the bottom yet.

"Trade figures indicate that exports were weak in the third quarter, and private consumption also turned very weak. We expect that will affect investment sentiment in the fourth quarter, leading to a very soft number for the year," said Vincent Kwan, senior economic research manager at Hang Seng Bank.

The consensus forecast is for a 2.88-percent, year-on-year decline in the fourth quarter. For the full year, economists are looking for GDP to contract by 0.64 percent.

The government also is expected to announce a revised growth forecast for 2001 on Friday to replace its now outdated prediction of a one-percent growth made back in August.

It would be the second recession for the territory since Asia's financial crisis struck almost immediately after Britain handed Hong Kong back to mainland China in mid-1997.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said earlier this month the economy would have negative growth "for a few quarters."

Healthy domestic demand kept GDP on the positive side in the first half of this year despite deteriorating trade.

But a worsening of the global economic malaise following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States put further pressure on Hong Kong's export industry and depressed local consumer sentiment as well. The United States is Hong Kong's second biggest trading partner after mainland China.

Economists downgraded their outlooks for Hong Kong after the attacks, and some cut their forecasts even more.

Goldman Sachs lowered its GDP forecasts for non-Japan Asia earlier this month after it cut its 2002 growth outlook for OECD countries to 0.2 percent from one percent.

Goldman is now predicting Hong Kong's economy will shrink 1.2 percent this year versus its previous forecast of a steady GDP. For 2002, it cut its growth forecast to 0.8 percent from 2.5 percent.

The decline in exports has side effects that seriously undermine a trade-focused economy such as Hong Kong.

"If there is a slowdown in total exports, trade-related services including transportation, trade financing and logistics all suffer," said Dao Heng Bank senior economist Daniel Chan.

Morgan Stanley chief economist Andy Xie said there was another knock-on effect in that people in these industries spent less.

"It's looking pretty bad," Xie said of Hong Kong's growth prospects. "I think we are looking at crisis-style numbers." *Reuters*

US economy seen picking up

WASHINGTON—The United States will be officially declared in recession this week, but the world's leading economy is showing faint signs of stabilization—an indication the end of the tunnel could be near.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, a private institution charged with official dating of US economic cycles, will announce in that the US economy has entered a recession for the first time in 10 years.

The announcement will take no one by surprise: All the experts have talked of recession for several months and the US gross national product began its slide last summer—down 0.4 percent in third quarter year-on-year figures.

The NBER was to plot the recession as beginning last March, well before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 in New York and Washington, according to reports this weekend in US media.

The choice of this date may appear surprising because US growth was still slightly positive last spring, with an increase of 0.3 percent in GDP growth in the second quarter, and 1.3 percent in the first quarter.

But NBER economists stray from the "classic" definition of recession—two consecutive quarters of negative growth—using instead four-month indicators instead of GNP: employment, industrial production, wholesale-retail trade and real income.

But in response to questions Sunday whether the US economy had entered a recession, White House chief economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey said it was too soon to tell. *AFP*

Removal of peg won't boost HK prospects

HONG KONG—The removal of the Hong Kong currency peg to the US dollar would not boost long term prospects for exports or growth, the Economist Intelligence Unit said Monday.

"If the peg were to be removed tomorrow, which it won't be, you would see a short-term blip in exports, but I don't think it would do anything at all for long-term prospects," EIU Asia and Australasia director Graham Richardson said.

"My feeling is that it won't be removed," he said, highlighting concern over confidence and the effect on the domestic economy.

"There's also the really complex relationship with China and the yuan. The really significant question is how much convertibility of that we are going to see over the medium term," he told a seminar.

EIU country alerts director David Anthony agreed the removal of the peg would do little to stimulate export growth and would have a negative impact on domestic confidence.

"Obviously the debate has been put back on the table because of the current situation globally, and people are saying that if Hong Kong had an adjustment to the peg it may have helped to support the economy, and would help stimulate export growth," Anthony said.

However, he added the blow to confidence any adjustment would have would likely outweigh any benefits the removal of the peg would have.

"Then when you look at the current volume side to exports, there really isn't that much demand, so even having a much more attractive price probably would not do that much," he said.

"To move off a fixed exchange rate peg is something that most countries are forced into because they get into payment difficulties. They cannot cover their external liabilities with external assets, so they have to adjust. In Hong Kong's case, you really don't have this," Anthony said.

"To my mind, it really is a solution which is no panacea to some of the problems Hong Kong is facing at the moment," he said.

Supporters of the Hong Kong dollar's 18-year peg—at 7.80 to the US dollar—insist it provides a stable, predictable and well understood monetary system well suited to the territory's highly external and flexible economy and to its position as an international financial center.

The EIU, which provides country intelligence, is part of the organization that publishes The Economist newspaper. *AFP*

Ex-Thai CB chief charged

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thailand's Finance Ministry will sue a former central bank governor for $1.6 billion, blaming him for a failed defense of the baht against speculative trading that led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, officials said Monday.

They said the ministry's Financial Institutions Development Fund completed more than three years of investigation and submitted a civil lawsuit to the public prosecutor against Rerngchai Marakanond.

But since no one expects Rerngchai to possess or pay such a huge amount—even if ordered by a court—the lawsuit would appear to be simply an attempt by the government to apportion blame for the region's greatest economic debacle.

Rerngchai was Bank of Thailand governor during the crucial May-June 1997 period when speculative currency trading of the baht had become rampant. The bank tried to protect the baht by using its foreign exchange reserves, which dwindled from $32 billion to about $800 million in a matter of weeks.

As the defense became untenable, Thailand was forced to devalue the baht on July 2, triggering the economic crisis across Asia. Thailand later had to seek a $17.2-billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund to keep its economy afloat.

The investigation singled out Rerngchai as responsible for the part of the losses incurred from the national reserves, said Pairat Kangwansura, a government prosecutor responsible for the case.

Pairat told reporters the suit could be filed once it was approved by Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. *AP*

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DATE / TIME	TITLE OF SEMINAR	PRESENTED BY:
29 November 2001		
11am - 12nn	Product Presentation	Inca Plastics Phils.
3pm - 4pm	Valugard: Total Auto Preservation	Valugard
4pm - 5pm	Business Opportunities in the Relaunch of Permatex in the Phils.	Permatex / Timken
30 November 2001		
2pm - 3pm	New Technology Tools & Equipment, Chemical Products & Assembly Systems For Use in the Automotive Industry	Centro-Aire Inc.
4pm - 5pm	Magnetic Treatment of Fuel	Taytan Int'l.
5pm - 6pm	Product Presentation	King Shoes Manufacturing
1 December 2001		
11am - 12nn	Brake Pads & Fuel Injection EFI	Quantum Spares
1pm - 2pm	New POLYGuard Bull Bars Launching	Liftruk Int'l Trading
2pm - 3pm	Universal Tools Presentation	Wiha Far East Company
3pm - 4pm	Defensive Driving Seminar	Nissan Motor Philippines
4pm - 5pm	Eyquem Spark Plugs Presentation	Eascorp Automotive
5pm - 6pm	Uniq Engine Treatment Product Presentation	Bizcom Int'l Corp.
2 December 2001		
3pm - 4pm	Product Presentation	Dayco Automotive Belts
5pm - 6pm	Turbo Stormy Air-Fuel Mixture Technology Demonstration	Bizcom Int'l Corp.

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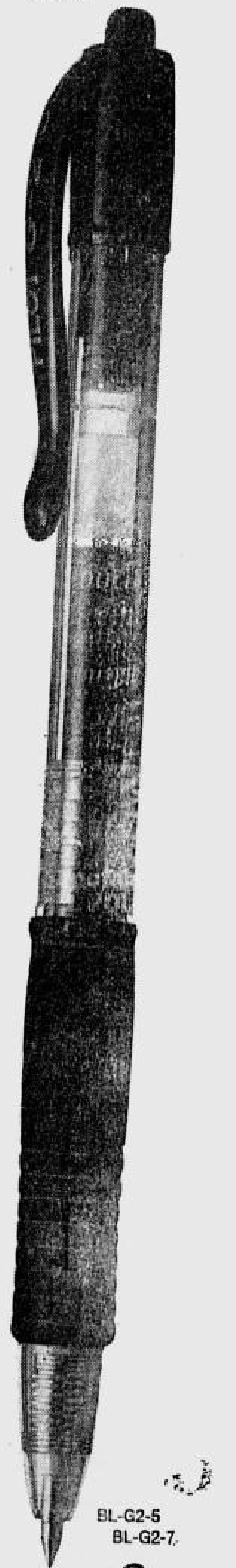

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Tan's foundation donates multi-purpose gym to CLSU

THE Tan Yan Kee Foundation (TYKF) proved anew its commitment to provide the youth quality education when it donated a multi-purpose gym to the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) to enhance the learning environment of students. Businessman Lucio C. Tan, TYKF chair, assisted by city mayor Nestor L. Alvarez and CLSU president Rodolfo C. Undan, led the groundbreaking ceremony highlighted by the lowering of a time capsule for the P15-million, 2,184-sqm gym which the TYKF donated.

TYKF, named after Tan's late father, has been at the forefront of assisting in the upliftment of the quality of life of Filipinos through its multimillion-peso scholarship grant at the University of the East; "Books Across the Seas", a continuing book donation program nationwide; FUSE (Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education) through its nationwide teacher training programs and Constel (Continuing Studies via Television) and other health and educational programs to various institutions.

"On this site, we will soon see a multi-purpose gym that will house many activities for the students of CLSU. I am most pleased to keep the memory of my late father remembered well in acts of generosity, especially for the young students who will one day be leaders of this country," he said.

A sprawling 658-hectare campus, CLSU started as a farm school in 1907 to become the Central Luzon Agricultural School (CLAS). In 1950, CLAS was converted into Central Luzon Agricultural College and later in 1964 as CLSU.

Because of the scientific environment provided by the CLSU community, former president Joseph E. Estrada signed into law last Nov. 7 the bill converting the town of Muñoz into a Science City.

Muñoz became the second science city in the world, after the Tsukuba Science City in Japan.

SMART'S 'HISTORIC' MOA WITH NTC

Wireless services leader Smart Communications Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Telecommunications Commission allowing for the installation of pico cells or indoor cellsites inside the NTC office in Quezon City. Under the agreement, Smart will put up 13 pico cells inside the NTC building within a span of five years to ensure better cellular coverage and enhanced service quality in the area. With the MOA signing, Smart becomes the first cellular phone provider in the country to install cellsites at the NTC. Shown during the signing are (seated, from left) Danilo Cuenca, NTC technical committee head; lawyer Armi Jane Borje, NTC deputy commissioner; Eliseo Rio Jr., NTC commissioner; Rodante Medina, Smart division head, project management and implementation; Corazon M. Raquedan, Smart head, accounting control; Salvio Valenzuela, Smart senior head manager; (standing, from left) Bema Enriquez, NTC OIC, general services division; Linda Mercado, NTC OIC, administrative and finance department; Peter Paul Simbol, Smart senior supervisor; and Benjamin Joaquin, senior site acquisition officer.

SIDE A ANNIVERSARY CONCERT AT ARANETA

Mark Dec. 15 on the calendar. This day will be a milestone because the country's leading band will be celebrating its 17th year in the Philippine entertainment industry with a concert at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City. The concert, dubbed as Going on 17, will be an opportunity for music lovers to watch and listen to Side A's heartwarming, romantic music as well as its hip-swaying tunes. To ensure the best entertainment for Side A fans, Bigtyme Production has lined up a powerful cast of artists. Special guests include Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid, Willie Revillame, Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi, Bernard Palanca, The Maneuvers and Hotlegs. Despite the emergence of other bands in the Philippine music horizon, Side A has managed to be in the forefront because they have been able to introduce innovations into their music. Although they are popularly associated with romantic ballads, Side A has been able to introduce new ideas in their music, which has surprised their audience. The group displayed its versatility when it released an all Original Pilipino Music (OPM) album called "Ang Ating Awitin". The album was arranged and produced by band members Joey Benin and Naldy Gonzales and released under Warner Music Philippines. For tickets, call BigTyme Productions at 536-1680 and at SM Ticketron.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

BIDDING ACTIVITIES	DATE
Issuance of Pre-Qualification Forms	November 27-29, 2001
Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Pre-Qualification Forms	December 7, 2001
Issuance of Bid Documents to Pre-qualified Bidders	December 7-11, 2001
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 12, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Bids	December 14, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.

The pre-bidding conference, and the submission and opening of bids shall be held at the NFA Board Room, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, in the presence of participating bidders and a representative of the Commission on Audit (COA).

Pre-qualification Forms may be secured from the NFA Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (NFA-PBAC) Secretariat at the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, upon presentation of an official receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 500.00.

Only qualified suppliers and/or their authorized representatives may secure bid documents and to attend the pre-bidding conference and the bidding proper. Bid documents may only be secured from the NFA PBAC Secretariat, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, upon presentation of the pre-qualification letter issued by NFA-PBAC, and the official receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 500.00 for the bid forms.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein, and to accept such bids or to award to any supplier whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Nov 25, 26 & 27, 2001)

All-new Insam Las Piñas branch

AFTER barely two months of operations, Insam Corp. Las Piñas branch, formerly located at Room 211 of D'March Building, Real Street, Las Piñas City, has now found a new home at 229 Real Street, Pamplona 1, Las Piñas City (in front of Latex, beside Petron)

Aside from its new location, the Las Piñas branch is now under new management. It will now be headed by Gil Amon, a businessman in his own right.

For its initial activity, a product awareness seminar and free iris analysis were conducted by Jennifer "Jing" Embate and Deevon Pili, Insam's sales and operations manager and sales and training officer, respectively.

Residents of Las Piñas can still enjoy the tremendous health benefits of the King of Herbs, now in a better location and handled by a more aggressive management.

Interested parties who want to know more and avail of the highly acclaimed Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng products at this branch can simply inquire at 871-2994.

Meanwhile, Embate is now up to new and bigger responsibilities, as she is now the designated operations manager. This came as an added position to her being the company's sales manager.

This move by the company is an indication of the management's trust and confidence in Embate's capabilities.

Embate is guided by the principle that states: "What the mind can conceive the body can achieve."

The Insam family wishes its new sales and operations manager all the success.

ALFM still outperforms benchmark

AYALA Life Fixed Income Fund Inc. (ALFM), the country's largest mutual fund, registered a net yield of 9.88 percent p.a. for the 10-month period ended Oct. 31, outperforming the 91-day Treasury Bill weighted average yield of 7.96 percent p.a. (net) for the same period. ALFM's consistent above-average investment return translated to the continued increase in the Fund's market share now widening further to over 44 percent of the local mutual fund industry. Likewise, during this 10-month period and with the year yet to close, ALFM has already posted close to a 200-percent net asset fund value increase.

Only two years in the market, ALFM, which was launched in September 1999, enjoys marked leadership and continued strengthened position in the mutual fund industry. This is because with only a minimum investment of P100,000, ALFM provides higher income potential, tax advantage and financial flexibility to investors by allowing them to withdraw anytime without penalty after 90 days. Furthermore, qualified investors enjoy a free life insurance coverage of P100,000.

Mutual funds, a popular investment choice in more developed countries like the United States, Europe, and Singapore, pertain to a pool of money from various investors and managed by a professional investment manager in accordance with certain pre-set investment objectives that can range from maximizing capital gains to providing a steady stream of income. By investing in mutual funds, small investors are afforded numerous benefits such as diversification across different types of securities and access to a professionally managed portfolio.

Within a limited period and in time with the Yuletide season, ALFM sets to provide new investors with surprise ALFM gift items. ALFM is currently exclusively available only through select and authorized ALFM mutual fund distributors. Investors may call 845-5034.

Clips

Concordian homecoming

ALL Concordians are invited to a homecoming on Dec. 2, 10 a.m., hosted by the High School batch 1976. Call 530-8219, 890-7081.

Total's Care-2-Win promo

TOTALFINAELF (TFE) Philippines Corp. launches its first-ever, network-wide promo entitled "Care-2-Win", where each Total customer has two ways of winning. A customer who makes a minimum P200 fuel purchase at any Total service station, or a P100 purchase at Total's La Boutique Store, qualifies him or her to a raffle coupon for a shot at the monthly and grand draws. For the monthly draws, every Total service station will be giving away stand fans, microwave ovens, washing machines, Superkalan LPG plus gift packs and gift certificates. On the grand draw, entertainment, computer and kitchen showcases along with Nokia 3310 cellphones and discmans are up for grabs. Customers also get a chance to win instantly from the piç-a-prize bowl. The first monthly draw is on Nov. 28.

Jehovah's Witnesses' 9-language confab

JEHOVAH'S Witnesses are holding their annual three-day district convention in nine languages in 49 areas nationwide: Bicol, Cebuano, English, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Pangasinan, Philippine Sign Language, Samar-Leyte and Tagalog. With this year's theme "Teachers of God's Word," delegates from Metro Manila will gather at their assembly hall in Novaliches, Quezon City every Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning Nov. 23 to Jan. 13, 2002. There will be a program for the deaf in conjunction with the English session from Dec. 7 to 9 in Novaliches. The conventions, which include a series of Bible-based lectures and presentations, are part of a worldwide Bible education program of the Witnesses. Admission is free. Visit www.iw-media.org for more information.

COSMETIC GIANTS AT BASF COSMETICON SEMINAR

Some of Asia's leading cosmetics companies attended the Cosmeticon seminar held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel where BASF's latest product developments, innovations and market trends, particularly for skin and hair care products, were presented. In attendance were technical personnel from Avon, Splash Manufacturing, Metrolab, DermPharma, Colgate Palmolive and House of Sara Lee. Shown is Pei-yin Tong (second from left), technical support manager of Cosmeticon Centre Asia Pacific based in Malaysia, explaining the application of the latest cosmetics during product demonstrations capping the day-long seminar.

KEDS SPORTS NEW LOOK

Robina Gokongwei-Pe and sister Hope personally dropped by to view the newly installed Keds concept at their Robinsons Galleria branch. The internationally designed visual merchandising display represents Ked's global direction to expand the brand's functionality and imagery – for many years recognized only as the classic white sneaker (the Champion Oxford). Vibrant colors, youthfulness, and a variety of wearing options, is depicted in this unique concept corner. One cannot miss the compartmentalized presentation of Keds categories in the new wall and module display. Keds Original, for instance, is the good ol' classic canvas sneaker, which now has leather renditions. Keds Relax, on the other hand, boasts of styles with that all-day comfort. It comes in various collections such as Bliss denim styles, chunky Embrace nylon styles in lively mango orange and periwinkle blue, shiny sand colors. For sporty-look lovers, Keds Sport is a range of lace-up, feminine sneaker styles in several colors. And the classic sneaker brand has a leather collection, too, shown in the Keds Casual segment. Keds footwear, an American original and by-word, is available at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place, Ermita and soon to open at Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga.

Dare to Fail seminar

BILLI Lim, the world's first "Failure Guru" will conduct his first ever Dare to Fail seminar in Manila on Nov. 29 at Dusit Hotel Nikko. In his best-selling book "Dare to Fail" and in the training seminars he conducts all over Asia, Lim stresses there is nothing wrong in failing. For his seminar, Lim will also touch on failures that so many world figures succeed in life. Men like Soichiro Honda, founder of Honda Corp. of Japan. Seating is limited. For more details call 813-4237 or 750-1495 or e-mail babylonsisters99@yahoo.com. For more details on Billi Lim, visit www.daretofail.com.

55th Picpa annual convention

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) is now hosting its 55th convention until Nov. 30 at the Expo Pilipino, Clark, Pampanga. Thousands of Filipino CPAs and finance professionals are attending this important event. Technical sessions in line with the theme "CPA: Fast Track Drive to the Future" will be held at the Expo Pilipino and will be complemented by the trade and IT exhibits. On the lighter side, a number of social events such as fiesta, sinukwan festival and cultural show, topada and paskuhan-simbang gabi will be held in the same venue. These events will be highlighted by a live concert of Gary Valenciano. Golf and tennis tourneys are lined up at the Mimosa and Fontana parks.

A TAIWANESE police officer holds a copy of a pirated "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" video compact disc at the Ta An Police precinct in Taipei. The movie was released last week in Taiwan. A hundred thousand copies were seized in the raid of an illegal factory in the Taipei suburb with a market value of NT$ 10 million (about US$2.9 million), the police said. AP

Japan approves spending, gets no-confidence ratings

TOKYO—Japan's Cabinet on Monday approved an extra dose of spending aimed at stopping a slide into recession, but the move was overshadowed by the latest vote of no-confidence on the economy by international ratings agencies.

The second extra budget, totaling 2.5 trillion yen ($20.1 billion) in government outlays, follows a three-trillion-yen package enacted less than two weeks ago, casting fresh doubt on Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's pledge to rein in the nation's huge debts.

Reflecting this, international credit rating agency Fitch cut its sovereign rating for Japan effective Monday, and fellow agency Standard & Poor's warned of a possible steep two-notch credit rating cut following its last downgrade in February.

The S&P warning sent the yen down against the dollar to 124.29 from 124.06 and piled pressure on an already weak government debt market, pushing the yield on 10-year government bonds to 1.365 percent, up a basis point on the day.

"Japan's credit fundamentals continue to deteriorate. The world recession has robbed the economy of its only bright spots in recent years—exports and high-tech investment," Fitch said.

Fitch's managing director of Japan, Sadateru Nishiura, said Japan's rating would remain under pressure unless economic reform and debt consolidation made progress.

But the stock market pushed higher as investors focused mostly on Friday's strength on Wall Street and took heart from signs that Japan's long-troubled banks could be getting serious about cleaning up mountains of non-performing loans.

Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka said the new government spending, which along with outlays from local governments would fund projects totaling 4 trillion yen, would tack an extra one percentage point on to full-year GDP and was aimed at preventing the economy from falling into a deflationary spiral.

"I believe this extra budget is of a sufficient size to prevent a deflationary spiral," Takenaka told a news conference, adding that the spending would be focused on measures to promote Koizumi's structural reform policy.

He said the spending would not have much impact on gross domestic product for the current fiscal year ending March but that it should boost gross domestic product by one percentage point over a year.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa also stressed the government spending was aimed at kick-starting private-sector activities.

"The objective is to draw out private capital spending and provide job opportunities. The measures should be implemented quickly and should have immediate effect on the economy," Shiokawa told a news conference. *Reuters*

So who's afraid of the weaker yen?

SINGAPORE—The prospect of an ever more forceful action by Japanese authorities to weaken the yen may be good news for Japan's economy but, analysts say, other countries in the region are worried they may suffer as a result.

For months, monetary officials in Japan, the United States and Asia have been debating whether a weaker yen is needed to revive Japan's economy—a policy that will amount to exporting its way back to economic health.

That debate took a new turn on Thursday, with a Financial Times report that the Bush administration signaled it would not object if Japanese monetary authorities tried to drive the yen lower by buying foreign bonds.

The report impacted on the yen and brought to light a discussion within the inner circles of the Bank of Japan and the Ministry of Finance, analysts said.

In early Asian trade on Friday, the yen slipped past the 124 level against the dollar

He said the budget would focus on seven priority areas—environmental issues, support for the elderly, regional and urban renewal, science and technology, labor market issues, education and information technology.

However, he said more than half of the new spending, or about 1.5 trillion yen, would go on general public works.

"The ministries will have until Nov. 30 to submit their requests for the extra budget," Shiokawa added.

The first extra budget earlier this month had already pushed Japan's government bond issuance for the current fiscal year to a 30-trillion-yen ceiling set by Koizumi, putting his credibility at risk.

Thus, the government is planning to tap into a special account that had pooled proceeds from past sales of shares in former telecoms monopoly Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

Announcing its downgrade of Japan's long-term local and foreign currency ratings to AA from AA+, Fitch said Japan's ratings would remain under pressure if it continued with its "muddling through" approach.

"Unless we see significant progress on the structural reform agenda and much clearer plans to achieve medium-term fiscal consolidation, it seems likely the rating could come under further pressure over the next one to two years," Sadateru Nishiura, Fitch's managing director Japan, told Reuters Television.

Japan's liberal public works spending over the past decade has done little to shore up the ailing economy, and experts say Koizumi needs to push through his structural reform policy, including a swift cleanup of the banking sector, which has been crippled by a mountain of bad loans.

The nation's biggest banks were due to announce their first half earnings later on Monday, with most expected to post losses as they accelerate write-offs of bad loans

Isuzu Motors to cut fixed costs by $724M

TOKYO—Japan's Isuzu Motors Ltd. said Monday that it would cut fixed costs in plants both here and abroad by some $724 million—the amount needed to hire about 3,300 workers—through a new restructuring plan.

The latest announcement, which may include additional job cuts, comes on top of a previous scheme to trim payrolls by 9,700 and may take total staff reductions to over 30 percent, or 13,000, of the loss-making firm's 38,000 workers by March 2004, Isuzu spokesperson Momoki Tsujimura said.

"We have decided to cut our fixed cost by the money equivalent to hiring about 3,300 employees," or 90 billion yen ($723.5 million), he said. "We have not decided how to trim costs. It may include job cuts. It may involve salary reductions."

"The economic outlook for the rest of the fiscal year (to March 2002) is very severe, especially after the terrorist attacks in the United States. Our performance is facing very tough times, especially in the United States. We wanted to be able to increase earnings despite lowering sales," he said.

Some 3,000 jobs would be cut in Japan, while the remaining sum, about 300 jobs, would come from US factories.

Isuzu, controlled by 49-percent-shareholder General Motors Corp., said in May that it would embark on a three-year restructuring plan aimed at returning the truck maker to profitability.

In the year to March 2001, Isuzu made a net loss of 66.79 billion yen on sales totaling 1.57 trillion yen, a 4.2-percent increase on the previous year. The pre-tax loss stood at 47.44 billion yen.

Isuzu is due to announce its interim financial results later Monday. *AFP*

Intel announces new microchip technology

SAN JOSE, California—In another step toward faster computers, Intel Corp. has developed two new technologies that will help the tiny transistors inside microprocessors run cooler, use less power and operate more efficiently.

The new designs complement several recent breakthroughs in building minuscule transistors that form the basis of all modern computing as they switch on and off billions of times a second.

But as switches become tinier they use more power and release more heat. Unchecked, that would lead to short battery lives and computers too hot to be useable.

"If we continue along that trend, we're looking at ridiculous power levels—like a nuclear reactor or a rocket nozzle," said Gerald Marcyk, director of Intel's Components Research Lab. "We want to avoid that."

Intel researchers will present the two technologies Dec. 3 during the International Electron Device Meeting in Washington.

It turns out that as transistors are made smaller, electrical current leaks from their microscopic components. That means more heat-generating power is needed for them to function.

In one solution, transistors are built in a thin layer of silicon on top of an embedded layer of insulator. The "depleted substrate" transistor has 100 times lower leakage than current solutions, Marcyk said.

The other solution involves the use of a new material—high k gate dielectric—that replaces silicon dioxide between the gate and active area of a transistor. The new material reduces leakage by more than 10,000 times.

"What I'm looking for is 25 times more transistors, 10 times the speed and no power increase," Marcyk said.

Earlier this year, Intel unveiled transistors just 20 nanometers wide. (A nanometer is about 10,000 times narrower than a human hair.) Today's Pentium 4 has 42 million transistors, each about 180 nanometers. *AP*

NTT takes full control of Australia's Davtel

TOKYO—Japan's NTT Communications Corp. said Monday that it paid $8.3 million for a 51-percent stake in Davnet Telecommunications Pty. Ltd., taking full control of the Australian Internet service provider.

NTT Australia Pty. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Communications, signed an agreement to buy the stake after NTT Communications bought a 49-percent stake in Davtel in December 1999.

"As a result, Davtel will become a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Com," the company said in a statement.

"The agreement announced today, which is valued at 16 million Australian dollars ($8.3 million), is subject to the approval of shareholders' general meeting of Davnet and the Foreign Investment Review Board of Australia," it said.

"NTT Com, along with Davtel, will provide better Internet Protocol services to customers in the Pacific Rim region by capitalizing on a new cable network extending between Japan and Australia," it added.

Davtel was established in 1998, with 115 employees. NTT Com is affiliated with Japan's telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. *AFP*

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Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. FE

PHILIMARE Inc.

MARLOW NAVIGATION CO. LTD.
Accreditation No. 20511-9

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of April and May 2001 on December 9, 2001, Sunday. at 10:00 a.m.
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: a) supply of labor and materials for the INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL SYSTEM & b) One (1) year contract for JANITORIAL SERVICES.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent/co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

**for add'l requirement, pls inquire at purchasing div. @ 922-05-74 & look for noemi* All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before a) Dec. 14, 2001 & b) Dec. 7, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Nov. 27, 28, 29 & Dec. 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late TEODOSIO CADA, JR. has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. # 262, Page # 58, Book # 10 Series of 2001 before Notary Pulic EDGAR J. TONOLETE of Carigara, Leyte (PDI-Nov.20,27 & Dec.4,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Certificate of confirmation issued by LTO to RODERICK B. HERNANDEZ for NISSAN EXALTA GRANDEUR with ENG#QG16-000128 and CHA#CDGALSAN16 - A13227 was lost. If no contest receipt new certification will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 27, Dec.4, 2001)

Notice is given that Certificate of confirmation issued by LTO to CORAZON B. PARAGAS for NISSAN FRONTIER with ENG#QD32-144581 and CHA#CVRUFFD22 - A83141 was lost. If no contest receipt new certification will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 27,Dec.4, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

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OBITUARIES

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OUR BELOVED INAY

Ma. Paula Montenegro De Leon

Widow of Dr. Potenciano De Leon, Sr.

We, her family, are grateful for the Lord's goodness as she rests in the loving arms of our Creator this November 24, 2001 at the age of 86.

PEPITO & **FRAN**
  TINA & JARRETT
  VINCENT
SELYA
LILIA & **MAR**
  GUGUT & JUNE
    KEVIN & MEGAN
  JOPOT
MARIO & **ELLEN**
  ERSCHEL, ANNE
LARRY & **TANINI**
  CARLO
  KEVIN
  ALVIN
  LEO
FE & **MANDO**
  PAOLO
LALA & **BENJIE**
  MARK
  PAULINE

EDEN (†) & **RUDY**
  PATRICK & JOYCE
  CINDY
  RAUNDY
TOTOY (†) & **LEE**
  ROEHL
JIM (†) & **DEL**
  KHEDIVE
  SHEIKY
BROTHERS, **SISTERS** & **IN-LAWS**

Her remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Parish Church, Multi-purpose Hall, Alabang and will be transferred to Lemery, Batangas on Thursday, November 29, 2001, where the interment ceremony will be held at the Christian Memorial Park on Sunday, December 2, 2001 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

I love the Lord, who listened to my voice in supplication,
Who turned an ear to me on the day I called.
I was caught by the cords of death;
Then I called on the name of the Lord.
For my soul has been freed from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
Psalm 116

With faith in the resurrection
The De La Salle Brothers of the Philippine District
announce the death of

MARLINA L. FAGELA, AFSC

She was born in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur on October 25, 1945 and died at the Medical City Hospital, Lourdes Drive, Mandaluyong City on Sunday, November 25, 2001. She was an affiliated member to the Brothers of the Christian Schools. She had served at La Salle Green Hills and the La Salle Provincialate from 1971-1998 for a total of 27 years.

La Salle Green Hills

1971-1981	High School Teacher
1981-1986	High School English Coordinator
1986-1997	High School Teacher
1997-1998	Lower Years Assistant Principal
1998-2000	High School Teacher

La Salle Provincialate

1991-1994	Director, Lasallian Family Office
1994-1996	Director, Lasallian Family Formation Center
1996-1997	National Coordinator, Signum Fidei Association

Her remains now lie in state at Funeraria Paz along Araneta Avenue and will be transferred to the National Shrine of the Divine Child at La Salle Green Hills on November 27, 2001. Cremation will take place on November 28, 2001. Letters of condolences to her surviving relatives may be sent through her mother, Mrs. Pureza L. Fagela or her sister, Mrs. Salve F. Tobias at 17 Michael Raymond St., Marieta-Romeo Village, Bgy. Sta. Lucia, Pasig City.

CONSUELO CARLOS PAÑGAN

Peacefully joined her husband
***Cayetano M. Pañgan** in the arms of*
Our Lord at the age of 88.

Her loving children and in-laws **Dr. Victor** and **Mirafe Yabut-Pañgan, Ludinila, Hermelina** and **Joseph Nietlisback, Virgilio** and **Marlyn Punla-Pañgan, Editha** and **Juan Vidal**; grandchildren **Tanja** and **Nicole, Kayetano** and **Lorraine, Cristopher** and **Patrick.**

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Capalangan, Apalit, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 after the 3:00 pm Mass at the Apalit Catholic Church.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

PRUDENCIO "DEE" DE JESUS TEODORO, SR.

Began his eternal life on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at the age of 79.

His beloved wife **Rose**; children **Jay**, **Lina**, **Dory** and Ed **Ledesma**, **Macci**, **Tim** and **Felice**, **Deedee** and **Gigi**; grandchildren **Jet** (†), **Johanna**, **Manolito**, **Crickett**, **Missy**, **Taffy**, **Paulo**, **Marina**, **Santino**, **Martina**, **Natasha**, **Misha**, **Kathy** (†), **Herbie**, **Todee**, **Martha**, and **Julian**; great granddaughter **Nicole**; brother, sisters and in-laws **Cecilia** (†) and **Jojo** (†) **Dayrit**, **Toribia** and **Constancio** (†) **Castañeda**, **Francisco** (†) and **Leticia**, **Josefina** and **Antonio Tiongson**; family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Hall, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City. Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday afternoon, November 28, 2001. Cremation will be on Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. at the Loyola Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati.

In lieu of flowers, your donation to the Julian and Apolinaria Teodoro Memorial Church would be appreciated.

OBITUARIES

The Officers, Staff and Members of
SAN DIONISIO CREDIT COOPERATIVE
announce with deep sorrow the demise of

DR. ANGEL A. MENDOZA, M.D.

One of the 28 Founders of San Dionisio Credit Cooperative (SDCC);
Former Faculty Member, Institute of Social Order (ISO)
and Asian Social Institute (ASI)

Joined his Creator on November 22, 2001 at the age of 80.

His remains lie in state at the San Dionisio Credit Cooperative Building, 0554 Quirino Avenue, San Dionisio, Parañaque City. Tel. No. 826-1055, Telefax 826-67-26.

Necrological Services today, November 27, 2001, after a Mass at 6:30 PM at the SDCC Building.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2001, at the Manila Memorial Park, Dr. Arcadio Santos Avenue, Parañaque City after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. Andrew's Parish Church, Quirino Avenue, La Huerta, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved

Atty. Alberto P. Ariño, Sr.

of San Antonio, Zambales
Former Mayor of San Antonio, Zambales
Retired Clerk of Court and Provincial Sheriff
Ex-officio, RTC Iba, Zambales

Died on November 19, 2001 at the age of 75 in Long Beach, California.

His bereaved wife **Adoracion Ferrer**; children and spouses **Ma. Aleli** and **Jessie**, **Alberto Jr.** and **Perlita**, **Armando** and **Cecilia**, **Arturo** and **Thelma**; sister **Avelina**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive on the 29th of November and will lie in state at the family residence at #2545 Lemery St., Sta. Ana II, Manila till the 30th.

He will then be transferred to San Antonio, Zambales on December 1st, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2001 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in San Antonio, Zambales after the 2 p.m. Mass.

VENERANDA LUCAS ACAB

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 23, 2001 at the age of 83.
A wonderful wife to **Victor** (†); mother to **Luis** and **Victoria**, **Victor Jr.** and **Susan**; and grandma to **Liza** and **Andy**, **Cookie** and **Mao**, **Rita**, **Rina**, **Allan**, **Johanna**, **Karen**, **Miko**, **GJ** and **Christine** and great grandma to **Sam**.
Interment will be on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, 2 PM at the Eternal Gardens, Baesa Road, Caloocan City after the Requiem Mass at 1:00 PM at the Arlington Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

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PASTOR MOISES ERA QUILA, SR.

Dedicated servant of the LORD of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Returned to the Creator,
Friday, November 23, 2001 at the age of 81.

His remains lie in state in the Chapel of Signal Village Community Church, Cuasay St., Zone II, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Friday, November 30, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

"For what is life? To me, it is Christ. Death, then, will bring more."

Philippians 1:21

We, the family of the late

Esperanza "Panching" Manalo Salinda

August 1, 1920 - November 22, 2001

Wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Daily Novena Mass is ongoing at 6:00 PM until Friday, November 30, 2001 at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish at Magallanes Village, Makati City.

So lovingly remembered
So sadly missed

Our beloved dear Momsie

ROSARIO "CHARITO" CRISTOBAL-MIRANDA

on the day of the 14th Anniversary of her birth to eternal life, November 27, 1987

Her children **Rosette**, **Veng**, **Grace** and **Teng**; and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

PROF. BERNARDINO CUSTODIO

May 20, 1911 - November 23, 2001
Former Conductor of the Manila Symphony Orchestra

His bereaved children **Lita**, **Tony**, **Chipit** and **Tito**; his sons-in-law **Ben** and **Caloy**; daughters-in-law **Tita** and **Jo**; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel Garden Suite, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City • Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133 • Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
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Sucat, Parañaque City • Tels. 826-1376 / 826-9682 • Cell (0915) 712-1220
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East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
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Magallanes Village, Makati City • Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8846 / 522-9438 / 400-5394

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10th Floor, Tower One
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Tel 8486360 Fax 8486373

NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that after complying with the requirements of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc., **WORLDSEC INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES (PHILIPPINES), INC. ("WORLDSEC")** is voluntarily suspending operations effective 14 December 2001.

Accordingly, **WORLDSEC** has appointed **RCBC Securities, Inc.** as its successor-broker.

Clients are advised to notify **WORLDSEC** in writing the name, address, and contact details of their designated broker no later than 6 December 2001.

In the event that no broker is designated by the client, **WORLDSEC** will automatically transfer the securities and turn over the details of the account to:

RCBC Securities, Inc.
7th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 894-9000
Contact Person: Ms. Rhodora A. Alberto,
Operations Manager

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Loan Administration Software Package

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, intends to procure a software package and services necessary to implement ADB's core business in administering complex, multi-tiered, multi-currency, fixed and floating rate lending instruments. ADB prefers a pre-existing, market-tested software package solution. It is not ADB's intention to procure a custom developed software solution. It is also expected that the software package must be capable of being interfaced with ADB's existing, future and external information systems and integrated, where necessary and applicable.

Interested bidders must be in a position, whether alone or through a consortium of not more than two, to provide the required software, hardware and other ancillary services. The bidding is only open to bidders from ADB member countries. Further information including a brief description of the project and qualification criteria for eligibility may be obtained from the address below on or after **28 November 2001.**

Bidders who feel that they satisfy the eligibility criteria can purchase the Request for Proposal or Bidding Documents for US$500 on or after **17 December 2001** as further described in the above-mentioned document, also from the address below. The deadline for submission of proposals is **4 February 2002.** While bids are being solicited, this procurement is subject to internal approval for the related budget. The ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation and delivery of bids. The Bidding Documents are designed to identify and document business needs of ADB. Issuance of these Bidding Documents does not represent a guarantee of ADB to pursue the project to conclusion in whole or in part.

Mr. Chong Hong Sum
Head, Procurement Section
Office of Administrative Services
Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
0401 Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax: (632) 636-2577 or (632) 631-6899
E-mail: chsum@adb.org

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Real estate collaterals need presentation boosts

MORE real estate brochures and flyers are making it to waste baskets rather than the pockets of the thinking buyer and investor. Instead of being chewed on, more of these leaflets are thrown out with the average consumer's junk mail.

While realtors often blame sales personnel, market rates and a weak economy, part of the problem can be traced back to printing information materials. Only the most desperate home searchers take a closer look at blurry design illustrations, overly colorful text and muddled location maps.

New line of printers

To better equip companies for these kinds of corporate communications development, Hewlett-Packard has introduced a new line of printers specifically for improved and more affordable prepress proofing. Before finalizing a brochure's design and running it for print, these three new graphic printers provide the accurate color reproductions and exceptional image quality needed.

The HP Designjet 10ps with its compact body is ideal for one to three users while the HP Designjet 20ps is a workgroup solution for multiple users. The printers use dye-based ink for greater color stability and saturation. The 6-ink modular cartridge system—composed of four high volume modules for cyan, magenta, yellow and black plus two lower volume inks for light cyan and light magenta—allows users to replace only the cartridges whose colors they have depleted.

Modular design

Another money and time saver comes from the two models' modular design. The new printhead with HP's thermal Inkjet 3 technology comes separately in the system. While now longer lasting, the printhead can also be replaced independent of the other components.

The higher HP Designjet 50ps provides all that plus a powerful networking capability and advanced administration tools that help manage multiple printing jobs. Many users, for example, can have their print jobs easily lined up without even leaving their workstations through a remote queue access and virtual printer management feature.

Smaller businesses will find other printing solutions specific to their communications developments among the other line HP has released to the market this month. Business communications can be done creatively and more affordably with the HP Color Inkjet cp1700 and HP Color Inkjet cp1700d. The two new inkjet printers deliver cost-efficient quality printing, with optional two-sided printing. The HP Laserjet 2200 and HP Laserjet 1000 are the company's easy-to-use laser printing solutions, with the former model equipped with remote printing from mobile devices feature.

For home and home office projects, HP has released the HP Deskjet 900c series, the HP Deskjet 656c and the HP Deskjet 845c.

Crown Asia cited top realty firm

PROPERTY developer Crown Asia has been declared as the Most Outstanding Real Estate Company by the Alay sa Pamilyang Pilipino, reaffirming the property firm's commitment to providing homes and subdivisions that offer value for money with features not found in other properties in the same category.

The recognition was given to Crown Asia in recent ceremonies at the Ateneo University Theater, Quezon City. The Alay sa Pamilyang Pilipino is an annual award that recognizes outstanding consumer-oriented corporations and products. The award is organized by the Alay sa Pamilyang Pilipino Project Committee Project, the National Consumers Council, Golden Mother and Father Foundation, and the National Family Parents Council.

Crown Asia was given the award in acknowledgment of the firm's contribution to enhancing the general well-being of Filipino families. The committee also recognized the company's stellar record and achievement as a real estate company.

Crown Asia is the pioneer in constructing master-planned housing estates—subdivisions with a thematic setting where homebuyers are given a choice of houses and presented with a lifestyle setting. Add to that the myriad of amenities for the convenience of its residents, such as 24-hour security; exclusivity, well-maintained roads and parks; easy access to different modes of transportation, the estate's nearness to premier educational institution, and its proximity to commercial and business hubs and centers

As part of its commitment to the consumers, Crown Asia also carefully plans its communities so its full development will be a natural part of the surrounding landscape. This translates into a housing estate that is not only fully integrated into the natural beauty of the surrounding land, but also with the added benefits of clean and unpolluted air and surroundings for residents.

Haunting Brentville for a day

BRENTVILLE International is the last place you'd expect to be haunted. Yet on Oct. 28, residents and guests were treated to a delightful parade of scary, funny and cute Halloween creatures. Held at the Sunshine Place Cabaña, kids were treated to a rousing series of games and contests facilitated by friendly neighborhood ghouls and witches. Sponsors Domino's Pizza and Tropical Ice made sure all the guests had their fill of oven fresh, hot pizza and glasses topped with cool and bubbly refreshments.

The highlight of the event was the awarding of those who went the extra mile to dress up not just in their scariest ensemble, but their Prominence homes as well. Judges had a hard time choosing the scariest, cutest and most creatively dressed of them all. Instead of just awarding one winner, judges chose as the top three best dressed kids Jeanny Puyat, "The Mummy"; Brandon and his mom Gemma Leyba, "The Devil and Baby Ladybug"; and Jenzel Villanueva, "The Shadow Ninja." Our little mermaid, Kyla Larrauri took home a special prize for her eye-catching version of the underwater princess.

YOUNG residents turn out in full costume in celebration of Brentville's first-ever Halloween party.

It was a tie between two of the homeowners in the Scariest Home contest. First was Virgie Valencia whose creepy tableau of a candle-lit coffin in her front lawn impressed the judges into awarding her one of the mountain bikes. The other bike went to Gil Puyat III, in recognition of his bat-and-skeleton festooned home.

A traditional community event, the Halloween party staged by Filinvest Land, saw both residents and lot owners fostering neighborhood ties and just having a good time with family and friends. Set in an idyllic neighborhood in Biñan, Laguna, Brentville beautifully blends Mediterranean architecture with a relaxed atmosphere of lush greenery and attractive streetscapes, exuding warmth reminiscent of Southern California.

It is home to Brent International School, where children not only receive quality international standard education but also the privilege of creating lasting friendships with children from all over the world. Truly a haven for gatherings, Brentville is the perfect community where people live, learn and play together.

Dornbracht caters to personal needs

IT is said that among all the parts of the house interiors, the bathroom is the one that best describes the character of its homeowner. But with standard designs made by mass producers of bathroom fixtures and accessories, it would be hard for the homeowner to differentiate himself from the others.

Until Dornbracht—a 50-year-old manufacturer of handcrafted faucets and accessories—came along with world-renowned bathroomware innovator Villeroy and Boch.

Says Kay Winner, Dornbracht's regional export sales manager: "We are concentrating on the top end of design. Our main philosophy is to produce extraordinary and customized designs that are of excellent quality. And that is what differentiates us from the mass producers in the industry."

Apart from making sure that their designers have the upper hand in the production of the bathroom pieces, Dornbracht also tries to fulfill their client's wishes. As Winner says, "We go out of our way to do after-sales service, just to please our clients. If they want a Swarovski-like crystal on the handle of the faucet, for example, we give them that."

Indeed, giving its clients the freedom to bring their personal style to their bathrooms is top priority for Dornbracht. And their still increasing number of clients has, in a way, shown their gratitude.

Starting from a little shanty cum makeshift "factory" of founding father Aloys F. Dornbracht in 1949, Dornbracht the company, now boasts of a turnover of DM 130 million with 136 employees in 1999. Sheer perseverance really paid off as Dornbracht even reported an increase in sales in the region in spite of the crisis that hit Asia a few years back.

Exclusively distributed in the country by Hamburg International Sales Corp., Dornbracht was also one of the features in the unveiling of the latest concept in interior design, The House of Villeroy and Boch.

"We have a very good market in Asia, particularly in the Philippines, because of the increasing desire of people to be able to relax in their own homes," he says.

"The bathroom has ceased to be a function area, but as Villeroy & Boch says, more of a wellness center. And that is what we would like to inculcate in the minds of our market," Winner adds.

Realty seminar starts Dec. 1

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. is scheduling its next round of continuing education program (CEP) seminars for Dec. 1 and 8 (16 hours credits), both Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The comprehensive program will be held at the main dining, penthouse, Old Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Subjects to be discussed include property management and trends in real estate; estate planning and how to avoid estate tax; updates in real estate taxation; development and marketing of memorial parks; appraising your residential and commercial properties; land use planning; the Family Code and its effects on real estate transactions; and land title fraud.

For inquiries, interested parties may call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0585 or 893-0569 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com, or visit the PMRB office at Unit 502-P Parking Bldg., Cityland 10, corner H.V. Dela Costa St., Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

All licensed brokers, who have not yet complied with the required hours for renewal of licenses, are advised to attend.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

2 firms to develop new seaside community

RESIDENTIAL resort pioneers Landco Pacific Corp., developer of Peninsula de Punta Fuego, and Roxaco Land Corp., the real estate arm of the Roxas family's Central Azucarera Don Pedro, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Pedrosa family to develop their 42-hectare ancestral estate in Barangay Natipuan in Nasugbu, Batangas, into an exclusive seaside community.

The proposed residential beach resort, to be called Terrazas de Punta Fuego, is the second team-up of Landco and Roxaco after their highly successful project Peninsula de Punta Fuego, a renowned 88-hectare seaside community. "Working with a developer like Landco has been a very rewarding experience for us professionally and personally," Roxaco president Pedro Roxas said at the recently held turnover ceremony.

On its way to becoming one of the country's premier real estate developers, Landco continues to create distinctive and innovative lifestyles. Among its more prominent developments are Canyon Woods in Tagaytay; Stonecrest in San Pedro, Laguna; and most recently, Leisure Farms, also in Tagaytay. It has also spearheaded development projects in key cities such as Lucena, Bulacan, Legazpi, Pangasinan, Davao, Iloilo, Zamboanga and Nueva Ecija.

Roxaco, on the other hand, are landowners who have transformed their various real estate properties into world-class developments. Together, Landco and Roxaco boast of a solid combination of market responsiveness and technical expertise.

Fuego Land Corp., the developer company created by Landco and Roxaco to undertake the development of the Pedrosa property, envisions Terrazas to be a world-class, unique, upscale seaside community. "We will provide Terrazas with the same prime quality and attention that we have given Peninsula," said Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr., Landco president. Terrazas will become an extension of Peninsula, with club amenities totally integrated with those of Club Punta Fuego.

Aiming to transform the Pedrosa land into a world-class development, Landco and Roxaco will strive to develop the beachfront's vast resources without undermining the variety of trees and animals that the Pedrosa family has nurtured for over four decades.

Among the special features of Terrazas to look forward to are a fine white sand beach, scenic views of the Batangas mountain range and the South China Sea, and the Terrazas Beach Club, which will be operated as an integral facility of Club Punta Fuego Inc. An associate membership in Club Punta Fuego grants future Terrazas lot owners the privilege of using the existing facilities at Peninsula de Punta Fuego such as the Country Club and Spa, the Upper and Lower Beach Clubs, the Casitas, a 9-hole golf course, the Golf Clubhouse and a Residential Marina (under development). Peninsula residents, on the other hand, will gain access to Terrazas' fine white sand beach and the facilities of Terrazas Beach Club—Club Punta Fuego's largest beach club.

Both Landco and Roxaco have long established solid reputations for developing modern communities at par with luxury resorts elsewhere in the world.

Auction of ₱40B in mortgages eyed

A TOTAL of 30 local and foreign trust investment institutions have signified their interest to provide financial advisory services in the disposition of some P40-billion in mortgages held by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

The interest shown by financial advisers who attended the first prequalification meeting called by the NHMFC raised hopes for the planned liquidation of the agency's mortgage portfolio holdings and the infusion of liquidity into government housing finance from the mortgage disposition, according to lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president.

The financial advisers, to be chosen through public bidding, shall assist the NHMFC in the liquidation of mortgages the latter is currently administering, under the most feasible and advantageous schemes, Salud said.

More particularly, the adviser shall design a program that will yield the highest liquidation value for the NHMFC mortgages, which is either or a combination of outright sale securitization, assignment of assets to another company, or through other modes of disposition, he pointed out.

In case of outright sale, the adviser shall develop appropriate terms and conditions; establish the benchmark values that will be applied in screening investors or buyers of mortgages; including the setting up of the methodology for the mortgage valuation, mode of disposition and mechanics of sale.

However, in case of securitization of mortgages, the adviser shall develop or structure the appropriate instrument or securities that will be issued, including the vehicle with which to execute the securitization program, as well as assist in the selection of entitles that will be involved, Salud explained.

Among those who attended the prequalification meeting are representatives of Lehman Brothers Asia Holdings; Goldman Sachs; Shearman and Sterling; Security Bank Capital Investment Corp.; BPI Capital; Credit Suisse First Boston; Landau Capital/First Metro; Equity Managers Asia Inc.; Force and Ventures Inc.; PKF Hawaii, LLP; Corporate Access Holdings Inc.; Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Asia Ltd.; Pricewaterhouse Coopers Securities; and P&A Ernst & Young International.

TOPPING OFF CEREMONIES

Robinsons Land Corp. recently held the topping off ceremonies of Galleria Regency, a 33-story hotel and residential tower at the corner of Ortigas and ADB avenues. From left are Willy Coscolluela, project architect, W.V. Coscolluela and Associates; Dennis Perez and Kim Calinawan, sales directors, Robinsons Properties Marketing and Management Corp.; Malou Serna, RLC sales and marketing services director; Roselle Liceralde, sales manager, RPMMC; Rebecca Chuaunsu, RLC sales director; Jose Ailling, construction manager, Jose Ailing and Associates; Marvin Caparros, structural consultant, RS Caparros and Associates; Joe San Buenaventura, division manager, World Engineer; Bert Gopez, vice president for hotels, Manila Midtown Hotels and Land Corp.; Lee Meng Kong, general contractor, L&M Maxco; and engineer Tony Liza, RLC project director.

Creba joins trade, invest mission to US

GORAYEB

A 25-MEMBER delegation of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) took an active part in the Philippine Information Communication Technology, Trade, Investment and Tourism Business Conference and Expo, which was held recently at the Hilton Burbank Convention Center in Burbank, California.

Creba led by national president Charles V. Gorayeb joined the Philippine Trade and Investment Mission to the United States headed by former President Fidel V. Ramos. The Filipino group met with interested US mainstream companies and Filipino-American investors.

"With great honor and a fervent sense of responsibility, we have accepted the challenge of representing the Philippine real estate sector to this conference, as part of our commitment to promote the interest of our members and of our industry at all times," Gorayeb said. Creba, now on its 29th year of existence, is the country's biggest organization of some 3,000 businessmen, professionals and organizations comprising the widest cross-section of the housing and real estate industry.

Gorayeb talked on real estate opportunities in the Philippines, which he said is "the best country of destination in real estate investments." Creba conducted real estate seminars, while Jaime C. Millan, chair, Creba Youth, held a business matching session.

Ma. Bernardita A. Mathay, Philippine trade representative, discussed "Doing Business in the Philippines," while Dr. William Torres, president and CEO of Mo.Net Internet Infrastructure Phils. Inc., talked on Internet environment in the Philippines. Lawyer J.J. Disini of the Disini and Disini Law Office, tackled the Philippine E-commerce Law Primer.

KY Cheng, executive vice president, East West Bank, took up Philippine ICT and real estate financing facility; and Annie Cuevas, tourism director, Los Angeles, gave a talk on tourism.

The Creba delegation was composed of Gorayeb, president of Creba and Concrete Ventures Group Inc.; Victorio V. Soliven, VV Soliven Realty Corp.; Goldeast Group's Avelina G. Panes-Acuña, Creba VP-external affairs.

Editha Manansala, president, Moldex Realty Marketing Inc., with Gerardo Manansala and Johanna Guevarra; Quintin P. San Diego, Q.P. San Diego Construction Inc.; Roberto Menguito, La Savoie Development Corp.

Aurora Redalon, A.C. Realon Realty and Development Corp.; Jose Edgardo V. Abadesco, Royal Ventures Construction and Development Inc.; Saturnina Alcantara, president, Creba Batangas, G. Alcantara Holdings Inc.

Eduardo I. Conde, Mortgage and Personal Finance Group, Union Bank of the Philippines; Racquel D. Almajose, Pipeline Engineering; Stephen Arceno, president, Creba Capiz chapter; Jexter Dulalia, F.S. Dulalia Realty.

Fatima Lintag, Pampanga chapter; Relyn S. Mallari, Primenet Realty and Development; Lourdes P. Maat, Baywatch Realty Marketing Corp.; Jaime C. Millan, Rosmil Realty Development Corp.

Juan C. Mislang Jr., Royal Ventures Construction and Development Inc.; Elizabeth A. Palsis, Rima Corp.; Rosario C. Rodriguez, JRC Holdings Corp.; Carina D.S. Tan, CDST Realty; Rowel O. Duya, Pampanga chapter; Myrna M. Delos Reyes, Creba secretariat.

Cuevasville Realty eyes expansion

UNFAZED by the current financial crisis, Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. says that it is firmly determined to push for its ambitious expansion in Luzon.

While busy with the preparation of its first mall project in Bacoor, Cavite, Cuevasville planners are also on a lookout for other real estate ventures in Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Laguna.

The company is confident that it can overcome the crisis because what it is going to fill in is the demand of other sectors still untapped by big real estate companies.

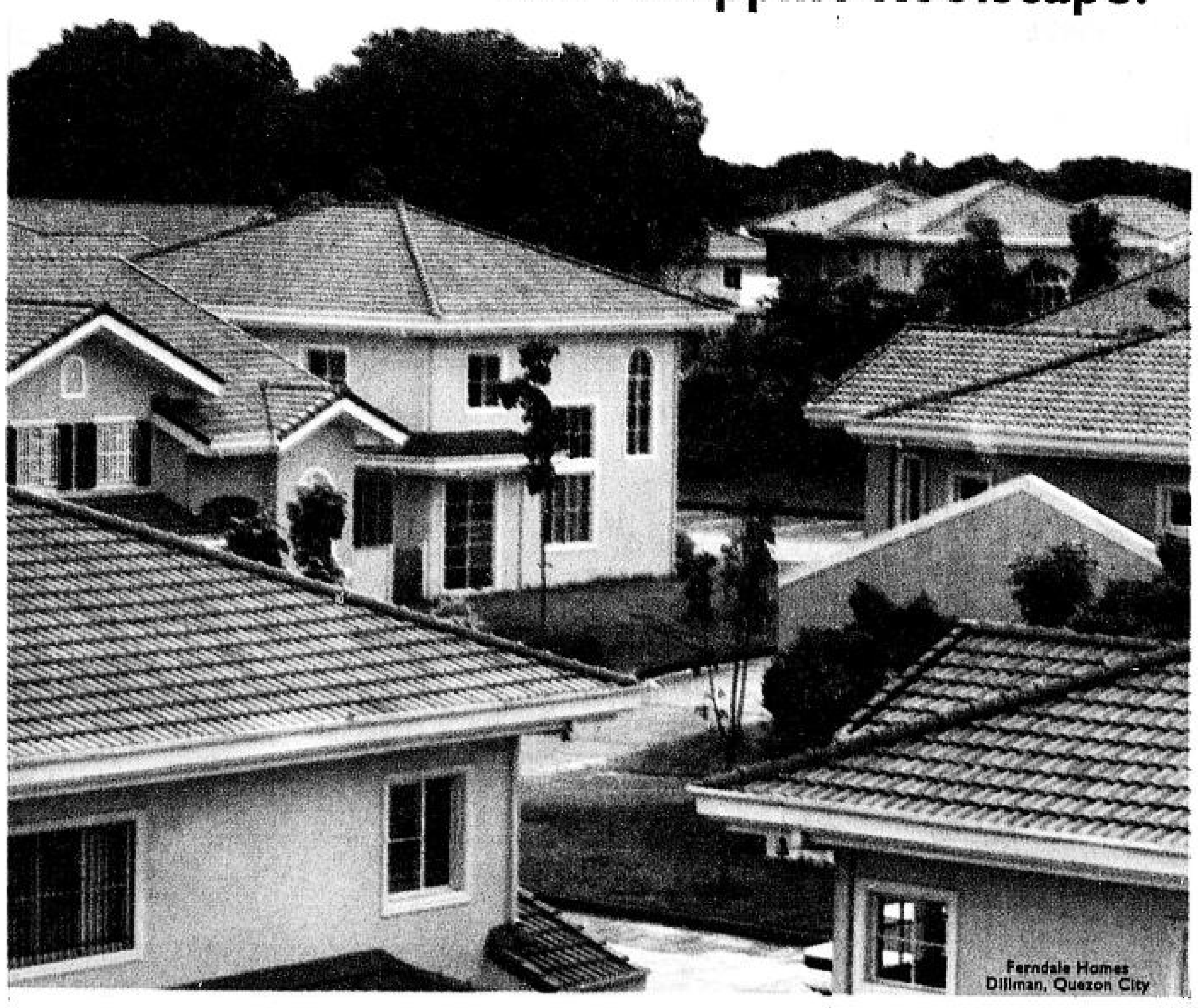
Cuevasville Realty is busy preparing for the opening of Cuevasville Plaza, its very first mall project. The mall, which has a total floor area of 32,000 square meters, will open on Dec. 15. It boasts of first-class convenience found only in five-star malls. It will rise on the busiest section in Bacoor, Cavite, which currently hosts a slew of highly successful establishments.

To follow soon after is another mall project in Imus, Cavite. The company says its Imus mall, which will be much bigger in size, will try to match up with the more established mega mall of Henry Sy. It is also currently marketing its Cuevasville Subdivision in Aniban, also in Bacoor. The exclusive subdivision consists of a 28-unit townhouse and single detached units having lot areas ranging from 118 sq. m. to 171 sq. m.

The firm believes that its realty projects in Cavite will serve as a springboard for its major expansion plan in Luzon. It says that it initially wants to take advantage of the current economic boom in Cavite before it takes a major push in other Luzon provinces. Cavite is one of the country's major growth areas having been least affected by the current economic crisis.

Based on the available data from the National Statistics Office, the manufacturing, construction, trade and services sectors significantly contributed to the employment growth in the province.

According to the NSO, the positive growth of the five sectors is due to the fast urban development, private and public sector investments and the improved domestic demand in Cavite. The growth will continue until 2002 as the needed infrastructure support increases and the utilities, trade and services sectors expand as a result of increased industrial activities in key areas of the province.



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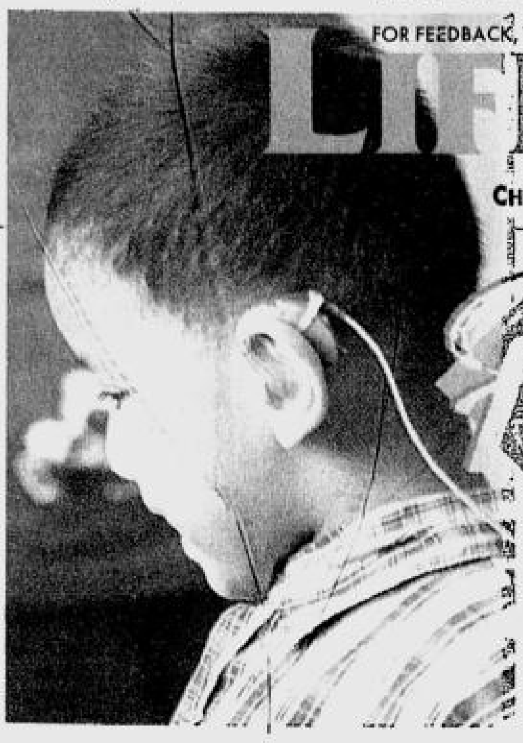
At CLASP, therapy is adjusted to the differences in personalities, learning styles, degree of hearing handicap and current functioning level

By Yvette Fernandez



IT was one of the most memorable phone calls of my life.

"Hello, it's Mama," came my mom's happy voice over the phone.

I cried right there at my desk. My colleague next to me gave me a sympathetic look, handed me a tissue and went to the bathroom. She had no idea what was going on and wanted to give me my space.

Hadn't spoken to Mama in a couple of months. Not since I had gone home for Christmas. Not that I didn't want to. I couldn't.

Mama had lost her hearing completely just before the holidays. She had been hearing-impaired from the time she was a little girl. It had slowly degenerated over the decades… till one day she woke up to complete silence.

She could no longer speak to me over the phone, across the seas. Instead, we continued to communicate on a daily basis over the Internet.

Then, earlier this year, she went to the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, where the doctors performed a miracle. The marvels of technology had developed a cochlear implant that the doctors put in one of her ears. They gave her back the gift of sound. The gift of the spoken word… music… laughter.

In the months that followed, Mama celebrated her return to the hearing world. After close to a lifetime of shying away from social occasions, she picked up the phone and invited friends to lunch. She reveled in watching television and the occasional movie. And she got involved with CLASP, a center for hearing-impaired children, who reminded her of herself many years ago.

A-V therapy

The children at CLASP (Cognition, Language, Audition and Speech) Center are hearing-impaired, not completely deaf. That means they can still hear, with help from cochlear implants and hearing aids. At CLASP, trained professionals work with children via Auditory Verbal Therapy. The method aims to help integrate hearing-impaired children into regular school and life in the mainstream.

On this Tuesday morning I am visiting CLASP, I get to meet Cheryl Dickson, a therapist who has been brought in from Sydney, Australia, to work with a hearing-impaired little girl who had just had a cochlear implant.

Cheryl was free to work with other children and their families during her free time, but she realized there is a need for a center to gather all the kids together in one place. She saw the potential for gathering the children together in one center, to work with therapists for the long-term. And step-by-step, with concerned parents and hearing specialists, she worked to put CLASP together.

From heartbreak to triumph

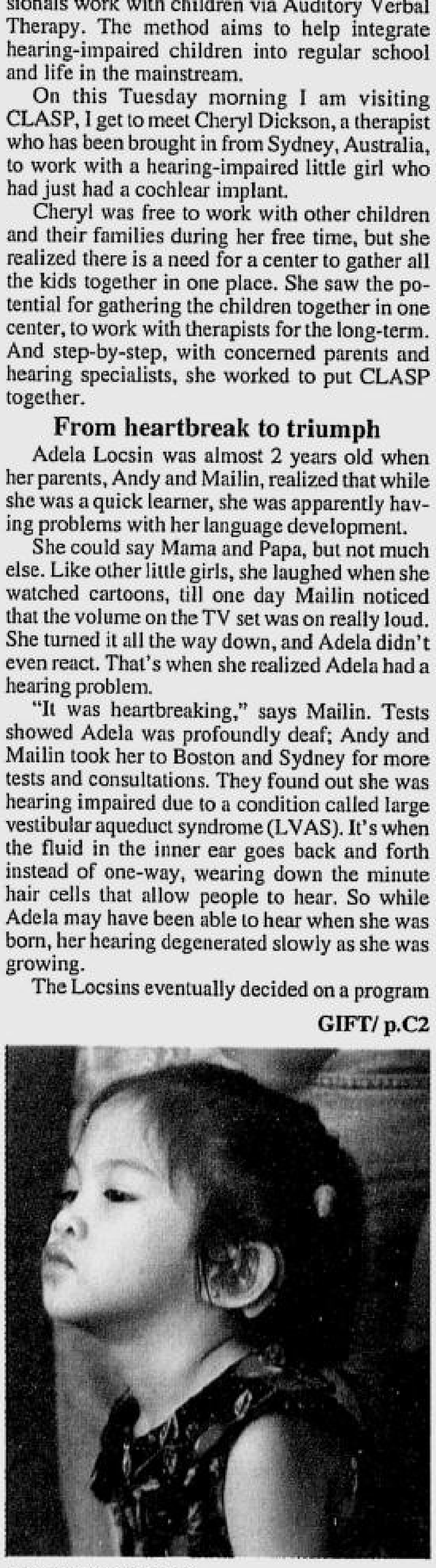
Adela Locsin was almost 2 years old when her parents, Andy and Mailin, realized that while she was a quick learner, she was apparently having problems with her language development.

She could say Mama and Papa, but not much else. Like other little girls, she laughed when she watched cartoons, till one day Mailin noticed that the volume on the TV set was on really loud. She turned it all the way down, and Adela didn't even react. That's when she realized Adela had a hearing problem.

"It was heartbreaking," says Mailin. Tests showed Adela was profoundly deaf; Andy and Mailin took her to Boston and Sydney for more tests and consultations. They found out she was hearing impaired due to a condition called large vestibular aqueduct syndrome (LVAS). It's when the fluid in the inner ear goes back and forth instead of one-way, wearing down the minute hair cells that allow people to hear. So while Adela may have been able to hear when she was born, her hearing degenerated slowly as she was growing.

The Locsins eventually decided on a program

GIFT/ p.C2



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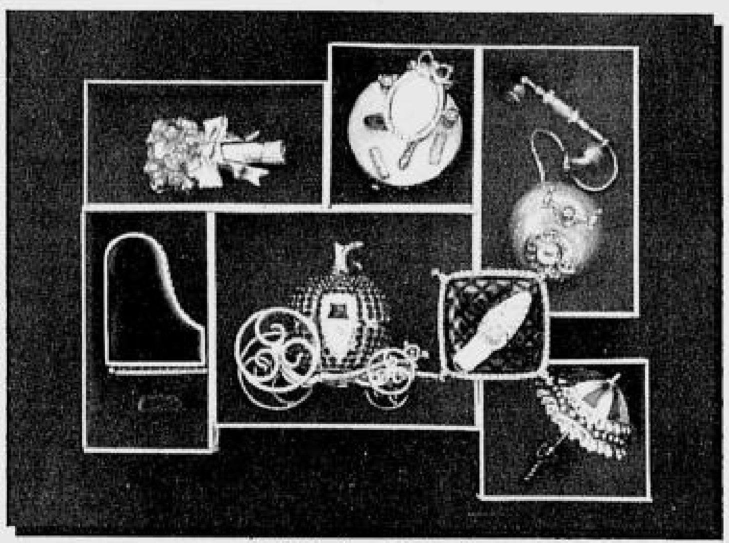
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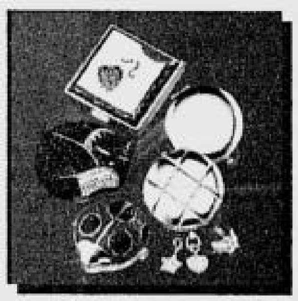
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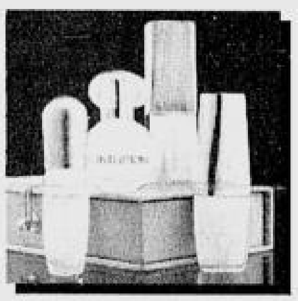
Perfume Treasures
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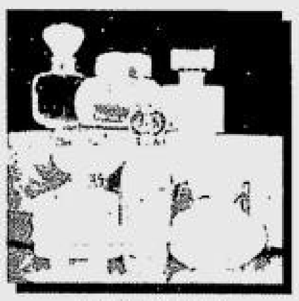
Small Wonders
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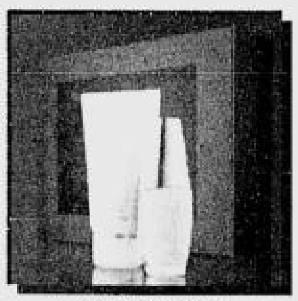
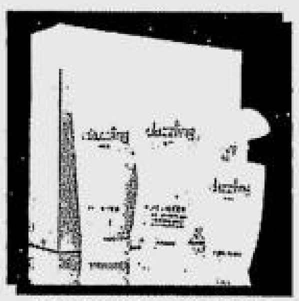

Beautiful Duet
P 1,700

White Linen Refreshments
P 2,250


Dazzling Gold Sparklers
P 2,700

pleasures To Desire
P 2,700

pleasures Day By Day
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Pleasures For Men Great Performers
P 1,700

Intuition Great Impressions
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Intuition Special Touches
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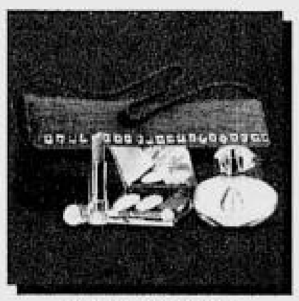
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3786, Series of 2001

FUN time on all fours

Gift of sound

(From page C1)

MODERN technology has helped children recover their hearing.

PLAY groups at CLASP for hearing-impaired children with parents participating

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

for Adela in Sydney that would include the cochlear implant procedure, intensive trial and follow-up. This would be followed by therapy visits by staff of International Cochlear Implants to Manila.

Andy and Mailin then put their regular lives—their jobs, daily routines, everything else—on hold. And they packed up and moved—body and soul plus Adela's two grandmothers—to Australia.

Almost a year later, a hearing Adela, her little brother Luis, parents and *lolas* moved back to Manila. Armed with a year-that-seemed-like-a-lifetime of knowledge, experience related to children with hearing impairment and the exhilaration of a mother who has been able to give a precious gift to her child, Mailin Locsin was ready to share that gift with other children and their parents. That's when Cheryl Dickson, Adela's therapist, encouraged her to put up CLASP.

Mailin says she and her husband needed a lot of convincing. While they knew A-V therapy could be successful, they weren't sure they could commit to doing something they might not be able to continue in the long term. But Cheryl was eventually able to convince the Locsins and other parents to support her endeavor, and the CLASP board was put in place.

Today, over a year later, children and their parents from as far as Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bataan make road trips twice a week for therapy sessions, and for the Saturday playgroups at CLASP.

The therapists painstakingly work one-on-one with the children and their parents. Cheryl stresses that it's a team effort. The parents themselves have to make a commitment to be involved in the child's development. Through individual therapy, the therapists are able to adjust the program to the differences in a child's and parents' personalities, learning styles, degree of handicap and current functioning level. Today, Jun's father, a major in the army, sits in rapt attention on the floor listening as Cheryl shows him and his wife how to capture Jun's attention with sound.

In another room, Leah Labrador works with 6-year-old Joby and his mother Sonia. Like Adela, Joby lost his hearing due to LVAS.

Sonia says it was "really devastating" when she first found out about Joby's hearing impairment. A pediatrician herself, she felt very helpless about not being able to do anything about her child's hearing. But she discovered CLASP and its staff, and has been working with the team since. She says she's also found a support group among the other parents who work with the CLASP team. On Saturday mornings, the children come over for a play group. The parents also have a chance to meet and discuss their various situations, as well as share problems and advice with one another.

Measles shot

Close to half of CLASP's children are hearing-impaired because their mothers had German measles during pregnancy. Doctors say rubella can easily be prevented by a simple immunization shot, followed by a booster 10 years later. Two little shots that could prevent a lifetime of heartache. The problem lies in lack of awareness because of lack

of information dissemination to future mothers.

The center is desperately in need of more space, more funding, more therapists. The therapists work out of a small one bedroom apartment converted into three little rooms. The use of the apartment was generously donated by Dr. Carlos Reyes, an ontological specialist. CLASP itself has been operating and surviving the past year on donations.

Administrative costs have been piling up, fees for specialized therapists are increasing and, while there have been a number of generous benefactors, the center is continuously in search of funding. They need more space to be able to take in more children, more trained therapists, hearing aids for children who cannot afford their own, and through generous benefactors, maybe even funding for more children to have cochlear implants.

But Mailin, now CLASP's executive director, Cheryl and the rest of the CLASP staff continue their work, inspired by the children and their parents who have come and gone, those who have moved on to the world of the hearing.

Little Adela herself has moved on to a mainstream school. She still needs to keep working on her language development every day, and it's still harder for her than most children with normal hearing because she still misses a lot of information on a daily basis. Still, she's adapted well to her new friends and her new environment.

CLASP's staff has given Adela, Joby, Mimi and many other children the gift of sound. The gift of the spoken word... music... laughter. The same gift Mama was given a few months ago. A most precious gift.

CLASP is at Unit 516 Quadrillion Mansions, M. Paterno corner N. Domingo Streets, San Jan. Call 727-4864, or e-mail clasp@quickweb.com.ph

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SLMC's Vision Laser Center features new surgical equipment

THE ST. Luke's Medical Center's Vision Laser Center, which has a certified team of US-trained and highly experienced eye doctors, is now in its second year of operation.

With the recent upgrade to Zyoptix, the Center's state-of-the-art Bausch and Lomb Technolas Z is capable of customized or personalized vision correction and is at par with the best machines in the country and in the world.

People suffering from all kinds of refractive errors, including mixed astigmatism, can now find relief with the Center's total eye care delivery system. Aside from laser treatment (Lasik, Lasek and PRK) for myopia, hyperopia and astigmatism, it can do phakic lens implant and lens exchange for very high myopia and very high hyperopia, and relaxing incision and compression sutures for very high astigmatism.

The Vision Laser Center, which has new and disposable top-of-the-line surgical items, has a comprehensive preoperative screening process that includes Orbscan II, corneal diagnostic and Zywave wavefront diagnostics. After the operation, there is the strict and regular preventive maintenance protocol to ensure high-quality standard.

Patients need not worry about extra medical fees since the Center offers a reasonable package that includes tests and follow-ups good for a year. Call SLMC's Vision Laser Center at 722-2965 and 727-5459.

WHO cites weight-related diseases

ASIDE from type 2 diabetes, the World Health Organization lists other weight-related diseases like elevated cholesterol and cardiovascular health problems (CHD), bowel and endometrial and breast cancers, gall bladder disease, respiratory problems, osteoathritis, infertility in women and depression. WHO earlier described obesity as an epidemic.

Elevated cholesterol levels cause blockages in the arteries which increase CHD risks. High blood pressure is also associated with excess weight. High blood pressure requires the heart to work harder and this in turn increases the risk of a heart attack. Body weight and blood pressure are directly related—as body weight increases, so does blood pressure.

In people with hypertension, weight loss of 5-10 percent shows significant reduction in blood pressure. The International Obesity Task Force cited a crucial study involving 30,000 overweight people who used the weight loss drug Xenical (Orlistat). It helped improve sugar control in people with type 2 diabetes and decrease blood pressure and heart rate.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information str Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are dental fillings included in our MEDICard program?
Temporary dental fillings are included in our standard healthcare program and may be availed from any of our over 250 accredited dentists in the country. Coverage for permanent amalgam or light cure filling is however, not included. For large group or corporate accounts, this benefit may be added to their program based on negotiated limits and corresponding fee adjustment.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Lemuel M. Tocjayao, MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at De Los Santos Medical Center, has been rendering MEDICard's unsurpassed quality healthcare services to its members for over 14 years now. Doc Lem is a Medicine graduate from UST. He pursued further training, specializing in Internal Medicine from De Los Santos Medical Center. Later he subspecialized in the treatment of Diabetes, where he earned his residency training from UERMMMC. Dr. Tocjayao is also active in the practice of anti-aging medicine employing Growth Hormone Therapy, Live Cell Therapy, Chelation, Bio-oxidative and Nutritional Botanical Medicine. He is a Diplomate and Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians, a Diplomate to the American College of Advancement in Medicine and a proud member of the Philippine Diabetes Association and the Philippine Heart Association. For your consultation needs, visit the Medical Coordinator's office at room B-6, from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon and then again from 2 PM to 6 in the evening.

OB-Gynecologist Dr. Concepcion S. Pijuan-Alfiler is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). Dr. Alfiler, is a Medicine graduate from the Cebu Institute of Medicine. She received her residency training from MCGH. She also holds subspecialization training for Obstetrics-Gynecology Ultrasound from MCU Medical Foundation Center. Doc Concepcion is married to Dr. Carmelo Alfiler, a Pediatrician. She is a Diplomate to the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and a Fellow to the Philippine Society of Ultrasound in OB-Gynecology. You may visit Dr. Alfiler for your consultation needs at room 402 of Medico Bldg. from Mondays to Fridays 9 AM to 2 PM.

After earning her degree in Medicine from UST, Dr. Mary Lou S. Cera pursued further studies specializing in Internal Medicine and subspecializing in Cardiology, where she received her training from St. Luke's Medical Center. She has been a member of MEDICard's service team since 1991. Doc Mary Lou, as addressed frequently by her patients, is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians and an Associate Fellow to the Philippine Hospital Association. For your consultation needs, visit her at room 330 of the Medical Arts Bldg. of SLMC, from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

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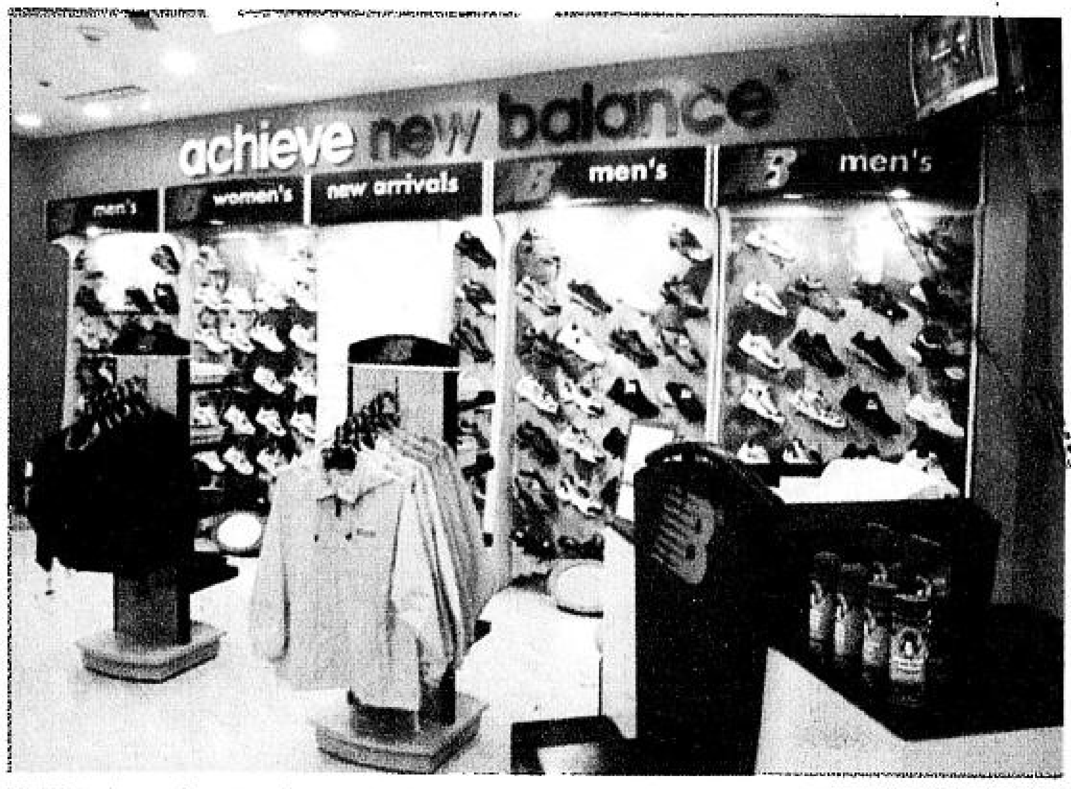
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Sportswear line for active women

GEAR

THE CONVERSE Ladies' Apparel is a unique selection of sporting and athletic clothes that respond to the demands for a woman to have reliable and comfortable attire for athletic and other activities like aerobics.

Sensitive to the dynamism of today's woman, Converse designers created three categories to cover their apparel/dressing needs. These three categories include: Performance, Action Sports and Athletic Originals.

Converse Performance is made from light but durable nylon fabric and cotton spandex, also addresses the need for practical yet fashionable outfit for rigorous activities.

The Converse Action Sports is a mix of heavier materials compared with those of the Performance line. The technologically-thought-of designs are fitting for women who are into X-games such as skateboarding or mountain biking.

The Converse Athletic Originals line pays tribute to the brand's timeless classics like the Chuck Taylor and Jack Purcell footwear.

Converse is a leading global designer, manufacturer and marketer of high quality athletic footwear for men, women and children. The company is also a global licenser of sports apparel, accessories and selected footwear. The Converse Ladies Collection 2001 as well other Converse products are distributed in over 90 countries to approximately 9,000 customers that include specialty, athletic, skate shops, sporting goods shops, department stores and other department shoe stores. Converse products are also available in Converse Concept Shops located at Filinvest Alabang, Tutuban Recto, All Mall Cubao, SM City Cebu and SM Iloilo.

New and patented technology for athletic footwear

FOR SO long, design engineers have always faced the dilemma in athletic shoe design: how to provide comfort without sacrificing stability and performance.

After research and experimentation, Saucony, the brand quietly making great-fitting shoes since 1898, has now invented Ground Reaction Inertia Device (GRID) cassette system, the new and patented technology in its latest line of footwear.

This small cassette system is made up of

SPORTSWEAR/ p.C6

At the Ladies' Shoes Department

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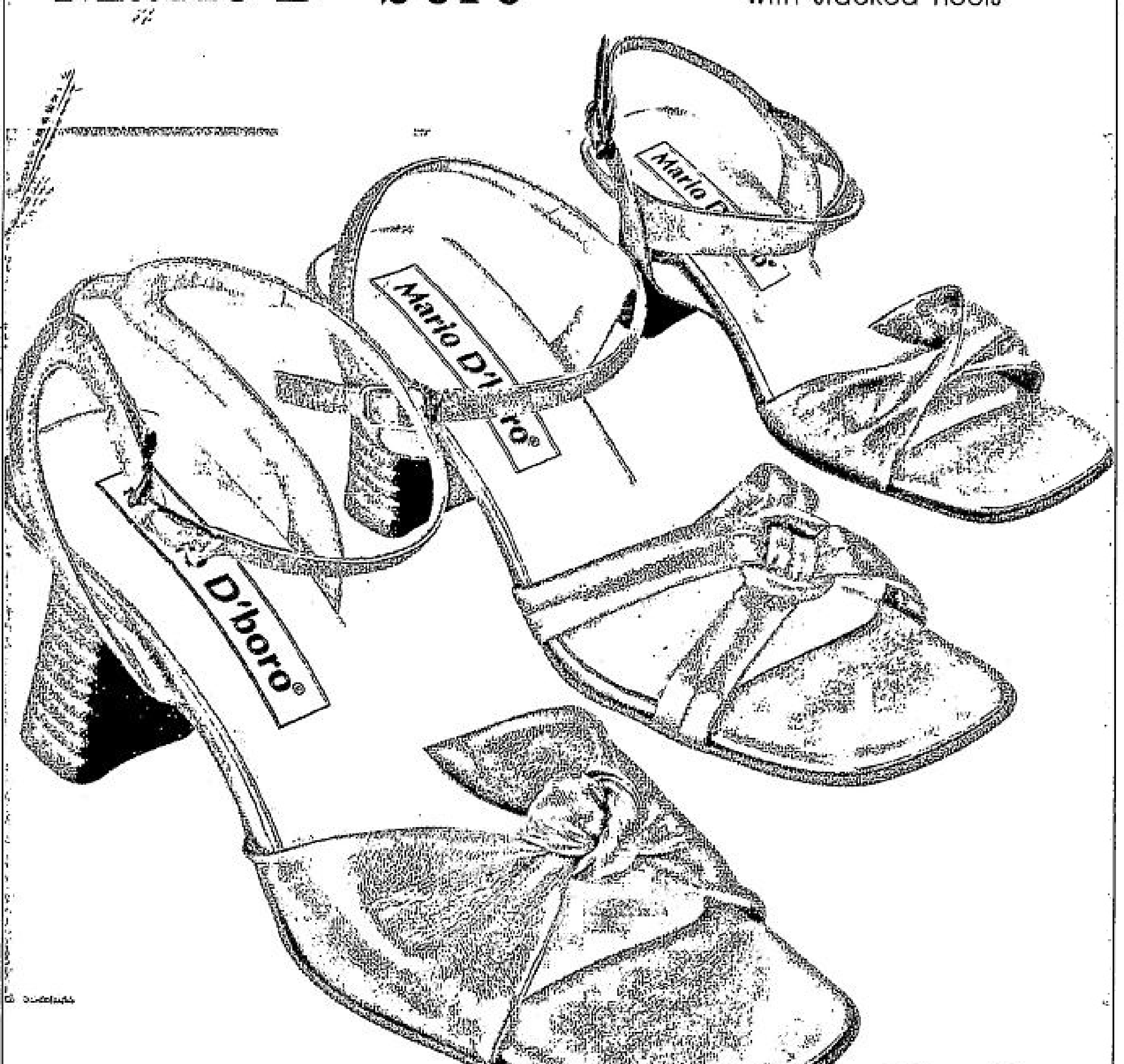
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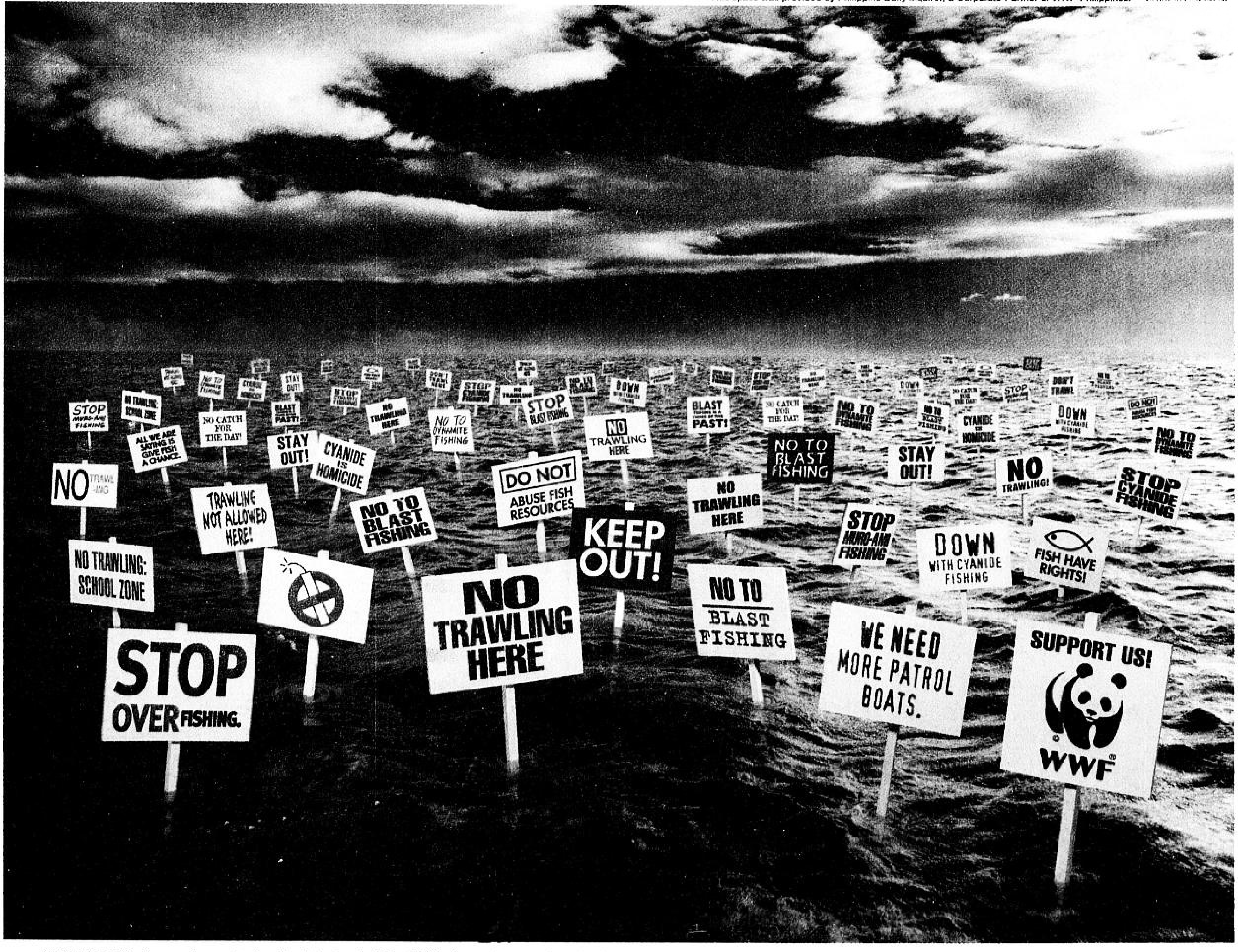
STOP MURO-AMI FISHING
NO TRAWLING: SCHOOL ZONE
ALL WE ARE SAYING IS GIVE FISH A CHANCE
NO CATCH FOR THE DAY!
STAY OUT!
CYANIDE IS HOMICIDE
NO TO DYNAMITE FISHING
STOP BLAST FISHING
NO TRAWLING HERE
DOWN WITH CYANIDE FISHING
BLAST FISHING IS A THING OF THE PAST!
NO TO DYNAMITE FISHING
CYANIDE IS HOMICIDE
DON'T TRAWL
DO NOT
NO TRAWLING
NO TRAWLING NOT ALLOWED HERE!
NO TO BLAST FISHING
DO NOT ABUSE FISH RESOURCES
KEEP OUT!
NO TRAWLING HERE
NO TO BLAST FISHING
STAY OUT!
NO TRAWLING!
STOP CYANIDE FISHING
STOP MURO-AMI FISHING
DOWN WITH CYANIDE FISHING
FISH HAVE RIGHTS!
NO TRAWLING: SCHOOL ZONE
NO TRAWLING HERE
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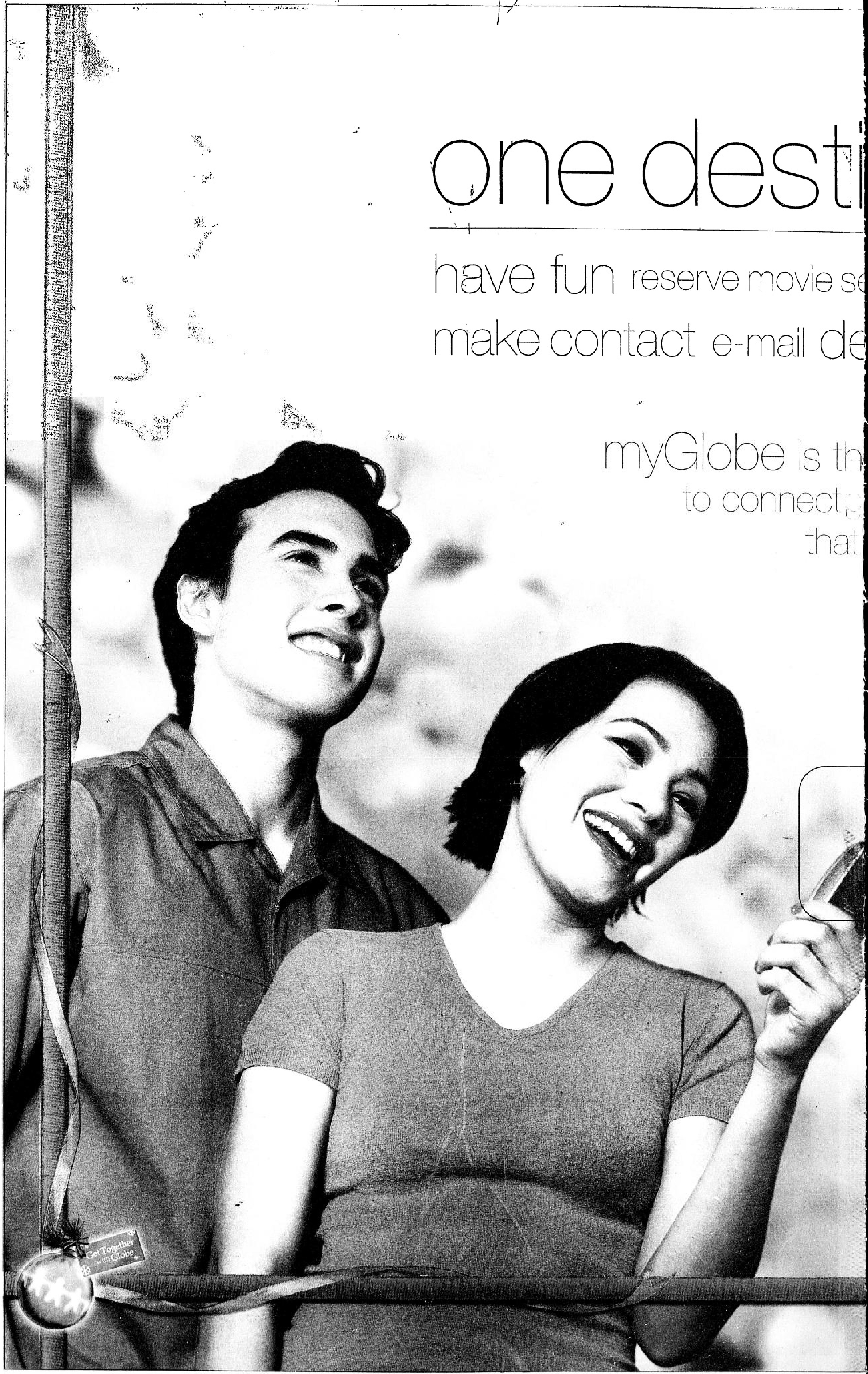
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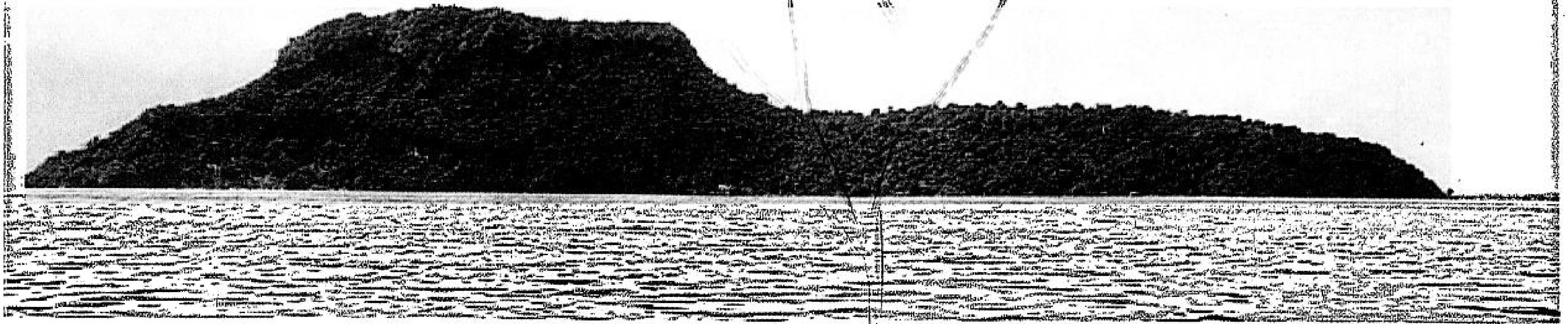


Ain't no mountain high enough for this thrill-seeker

By Jose Mateo Hernandez III

I HAVE always dreamed of going on an adventure trip—exploring the great outdoors, rappeling down a mountain, or sleeping, as they say, under the stars. But being the corporate animal that I am, with a hectic six-day-a-week schedule, I never really got the opportunity to find out whether or not I have what it takes to climb mountains, explore the deep and entrust my life to the elements.

Until opportunity came knocking at my door. As the cliché goes, the world is too small and life too short, so we must grab every opportunity to explore the world around us. And so I did—via the South Luzon Adventure Tour courtesy of Shell-Citibank MasterCard, the credit card that lets you go places because its features have been especially designed for motorists.

Days before the scheduled tour, Sonya Perez-Bernas, Citibank AVP for cards marketing, e-mailed tour participants our itinerary.

Two days before our departure for Batangas, we were briefed on things that we should wear and bring, and the dos and don'ts for the trip: we should travel light, wear comfortable clothes, not forget to bring toiletries (toothbrushes, towels, etc.) and to chew on power candies when going uphill.

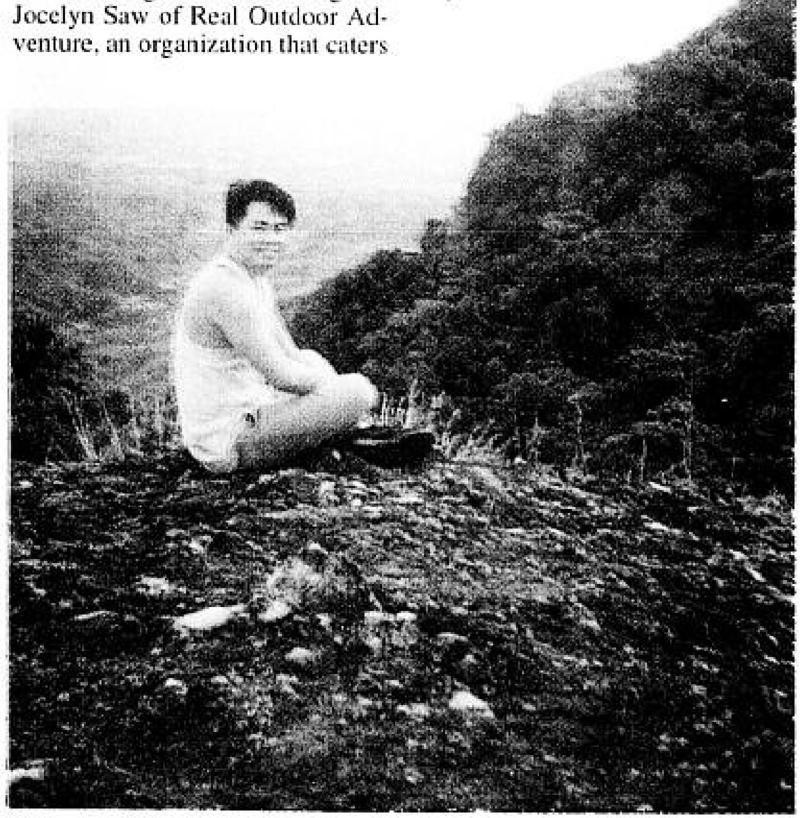
We also got to meet trek guide Jocelyn Saw of Real Outdoor Adventure, an organization that caters to people who want to escape the urban jungle, and its everyday stress, work pressures and pollution. With her was Albert Labrador who also served as our official photographer, Mike Soriano, Choy Aquino who helped us throughout the "ordeal," and Jessie Go who served as our first guide but was later nowhere to be found. (He was probably with another group, or on a rescue mission. Never saw him again.)

There were 10 of us: Anjo, Felipe, Calen, Pinky, Charles, Cornelius, Mariel, Nicole, Ruel and myself. Some were neophytes and the others, second-timers. The highlights of the adventure trip were mountain climbing expeditions to Mt. Dagoldol and Mt. Teal.

Like life

I had not gone on a mountain climbing expedition before but I was told that every climb is a new and different experience. That every peak, when reached, provides a different feeling of satisfaction or fulfillment. Now I can't help but agree.

Climbing a mountain can be likened to our struggles in life; every single step, when done slowly but surely, is like going through life's experiences. Reaching the top is like realizing your dreams, goals and aspirations. It's proof that anything is possible; from the top you have a clear picture of your life and how you should handle it.



THE AUTHOR basking in the great outdoors.

I tried hard not to be overwhelmed by the activities but guess what? It never worked! The first day was a revelation of sorts. We met at Ford Alabang at 6 a.m. and, luckily, everyone arrived on time. It never occurred to me that I would be assigned to drive the Ford E-150 Chateau Wagon. I would have settled for the F-150 Super Crew because of its smaller size, but I backed out when I found out it was automatic. I have to admit though that I thoroughly enjoyed driving the Ford E-150. I imagined the pleasure to be like piloting a plane!

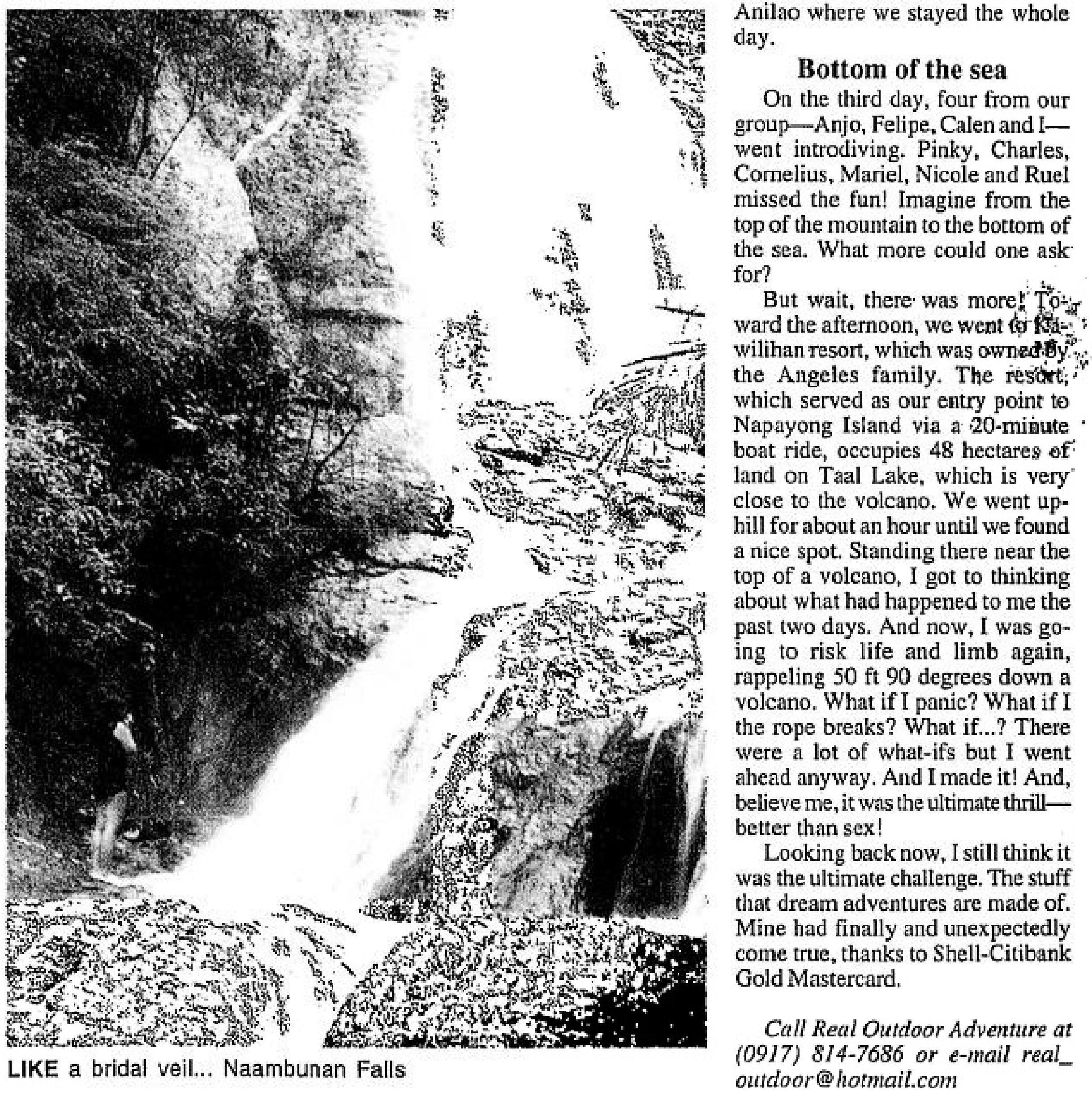
Not quite familiar with the rest of the group, I found myself drawn to our guide Jo Saw, or Dyosa as she was fondly called by everyone. She appeared so fragile—slim, about 5 ft tall— but very determined. I had to remind myself not to be intimidated by her presence; surely, whatever she could do, we men could do a thousandfold better. Again, I was wrong. That was a foolish and self-centered thought. She actually became our guiding light. When I was beginning to lose hope and thought of just quitting, she gave encouragement. She made us laugh with her sometimes-corny jokes. Her sunny disposition, her bright outlook in life and her infectious smile made me forget the difficulties. She lived up to her name.

Finally, we reached our first destination. Naambunan Falls was like a bridal veil, long and white. It flowed gently and when it touched your face, it felt like soft raindrops. We rested and had lunch there.

The real peak

Later, after four more hours of trekking, we finally reached what we thought was the peak of Mt. Dagolgol. Standing there at almost 3,000 feet above sea level, at 5:30 p.m. when the sun was about to set, I felt very peaceful. Everything seemed perfect. The orange sun, the wind as cool as ice, made me feel like I'm on top of the world! After dinner, we found our tents had been perfectly pitched. We were all so tired and we just slept, totally disregarding that part of our itinerary which supposed to be "socials."

A RATHER informal mountain-climbing society



LIKE a bridal veil... Naambunan Falls

Just when we thought we had already reached the peak, we were told the following morning that in an hour or two, we would reach the summit. Some of us begged our guides to allow us to just stay where we were. But, what the heck, we were almost there and what was a few kilometers more?

When we reached the top (the true top this time, ha!) there was a moment of silence. We prayed, thankful that, finally, we had reached the top. The summit was very different from the place that we first thought was the peak. It was rocky, steep and I was surprised to see grass growing from the rock. They called it magic grass for this was the only place where it could be found. Well, grass or no grass, being at the top was a breathtaking experience.

On the second day, we began our trek down the mountain, then took a road trip to Balai Resort in Anilao where we stayed the whole day.

Bottom of the sea

On the third day, four from our group—Anjo, Felipe, Calen and I—went introdiving. Pinky, Charles, Cornelius, Mariel, Nicole and Ruel missed the fun! Imagine from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the sea. What more could one ask for?

But wait, there was more! Toward the afternoon, we went to Kawilihan resort, which was owned by the Angeles family. The resort, which served as our entry point to Napayong Island via a 20-minute boat ride, occupies 48 hectares of land on Taal Lake, which is very close to the volcano. We went uphill for about an hour until we found a nice spot. Standing there near the top of a volcano, I got to thinking about what had happened to me the past two days. And now, I was going to risk life and limb again, rappeling 50 ft 90 degrees down a volcano. What if I panic? What if I the rope breaks? What if...? There were a lot of what-ifs but I went ahead anyway. And I made it! And, believe me, it was the ultimate thrill—better than sex!

Looking back now, I still think it was the ultimate challenge. The stuff that dream adventures are made of. Mine had finally and unexpectedly come true, thanks to Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard.

Call Real Outdoor Adventure at (0917) 814-7686 or e-mail real_outdoor@hotmail.com

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Sportswear line for active women

(From page C3)

interwoven Hytrel elastomer that is inserted into gap hollowed out in the heels of Saucony shoes. When your heel hits the ground, the interwoven Hytrel strings bend to the shape of your heel, absorbing the shock. At the same time, your midsole compresses. You then get cushioning, stability and control. Saucony shoes are specifically developed to meet the biomechanical and specific needs of your feet.

SAUCONY GRID Icon for men

Saucony works to counteract the three major phases a runner's foot passes through: rearfoot, midfoot and forefoot. And even if we're only walking, the same principles apply.

The first phase is the rearfoot phase. The strain is taken up by the heel bone, which gets intense shock then rolls, sways and tilts. Saucony's GRID cassette system both absorbs shock and provides stability.

The second phase is the midfoot phase. Here the runner's weight shifts forward, creating torsion through the arch.

And the third and last phase is the forefoot phase. Now, all the pressure goes straight to your toes. Up to seven times body weight on your metatarsals. Saucony's High Rebound Compound Pad reduces shock, provides cushioning and doesn't inhibit flexibility.

GRID technology is an exclusive feature of Saucony shoes now available at very reasonable prices at all Royal Sporting House outlets Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Ermita, Festival Mall, Isetann-Recto, The Shoe Shops at Rockwell and Shangri-La Plaza and other sports stores.

Teaming up with Runner's World mag

NEW Balance has continuously been recognized worldwide as the forerunner for active lifestyles, particularly in running. New Balance has the edge with its exclusive width-sizing feature, no matter what size and shape one's feet can find a New Balance pair that fits for comfort and safety.

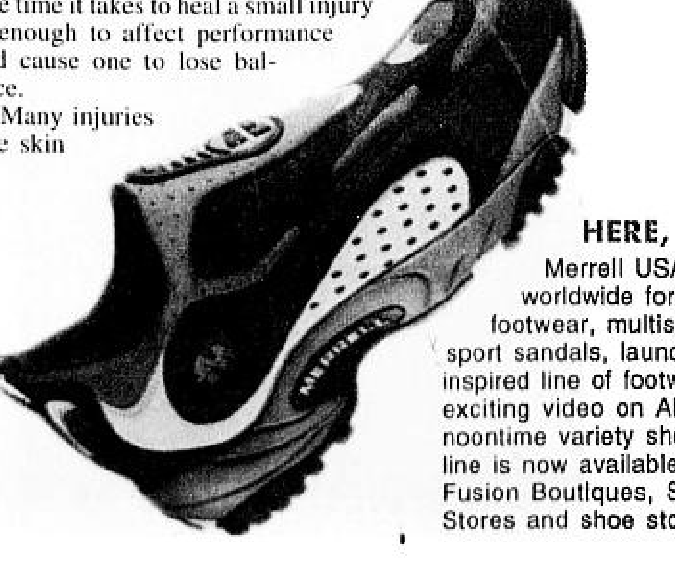
In line with their crusade to support runners (beginners and serious athletes), New Balance teamed up with Runner's World Magazine, a US publication. The magazine presents a wide range of information on such topics as "Principles of Prevention," "The Five Most Common Injuries," "Maladies to Beware," and "Rehab Tips for the Mind and Body."

The unique guide to injury-free running cautions runners about injuries that occur because the runner either pushes too hard or fails to listen to his/her body or don't pay attention to surroundings. The time it takes to heal a small injury is enough to affect performance and cause one to lose balance.

Many injuries like skin splints, Achilles tendonitis or minor sprains can be avoided by wearing right footwear.

By listening to runners, New Balance has responded with new materials and technology, the latest being the N-ergy system midsole technology for the mild to moderate overpronator looking for a responsible ride. The style, MIO4OBS, also features AbZorb in forefoot, which provide exceptional shock absorption. The C-cap midsole, on the other hand, is a lightweight compression molded EVA which provides cushioning and flexibility.

For a copy of the guidebook "Running Injury Free," call New Balance product manager Beth Marcelo at 812-1068/1079.



HERE, HERE
Merrell USA, known worldwide for its after-sport footwear, multisport shoes and sport sandals, launched its outdoor-inspired line of footwear with an exciting video on ABS-CBN's noontime variety show "Asap." The line is now available in selected Fusion Boutiques, SM Department Stores and shoe stores nationwide.

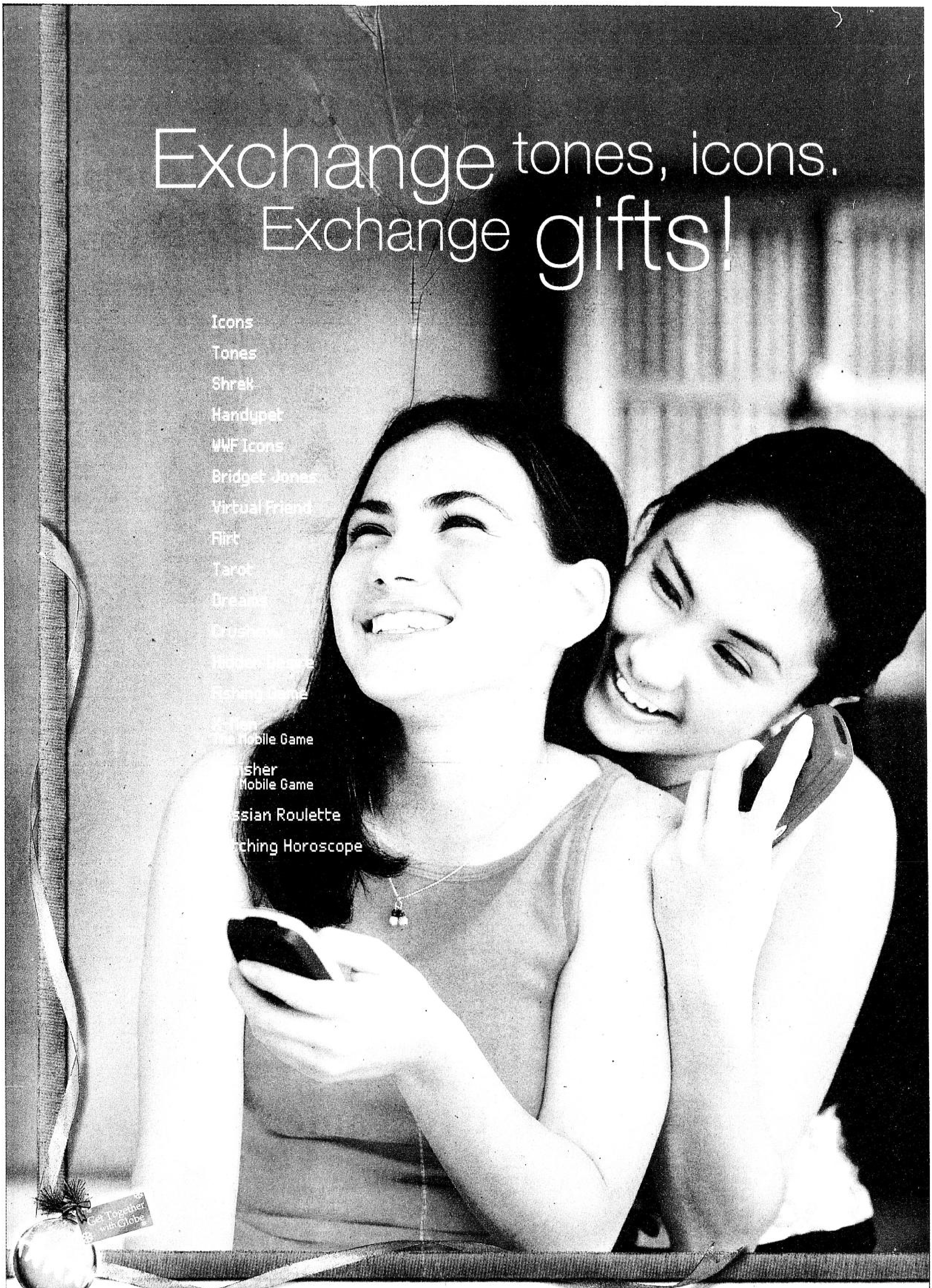
A different kind of B&B

BRUNSWICK Bowling VP Int'l. Alain Winterhalter was in Manila recently to strengthen its ties with Bong Coo and Gina Avecilla, chair and president, respectively, of Bong Coo Sports Product Inc., the exclusive and only distributor of all Brunswick bowling and billiards products.

During his visit, Winterhalter assured BCSPI that Brunswick will continue to support them by delivering state-of-the-art equipment, training and promotional backup. Also, he renewed collaboration with BCSPI ends all claims of Brunswick distributorship by other companies.

BCSPI has been setting the trend and standard in the conceptualization and design of bowling and billiards establishments. Pioneering the full concept of design—from planning, budgeting, construction, maintenance, training, management and now, marketing, too, it has constructed the trendiest and most popular bowling and billiards recreational venues in the country. Some of which showcases the use of the Brunswick Frameworx system known for its flat-screen, touch screen technology, a leading edge in the computer industry.

BCSPI with Brunswick aims to make bowling fun, inviting and exciting for all ages and for bowling centers an opportunity, an investment and a future. Visit their showroom at the Podium Deck, Globe Telecom Plaza, Madison Street, Mandaluyong City.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myGlobe has plenty of unexpected gift ideas, exciting games and surprises so you and your friends can have a good falalala-laugh this Christmas. Look under the category Fun & Games

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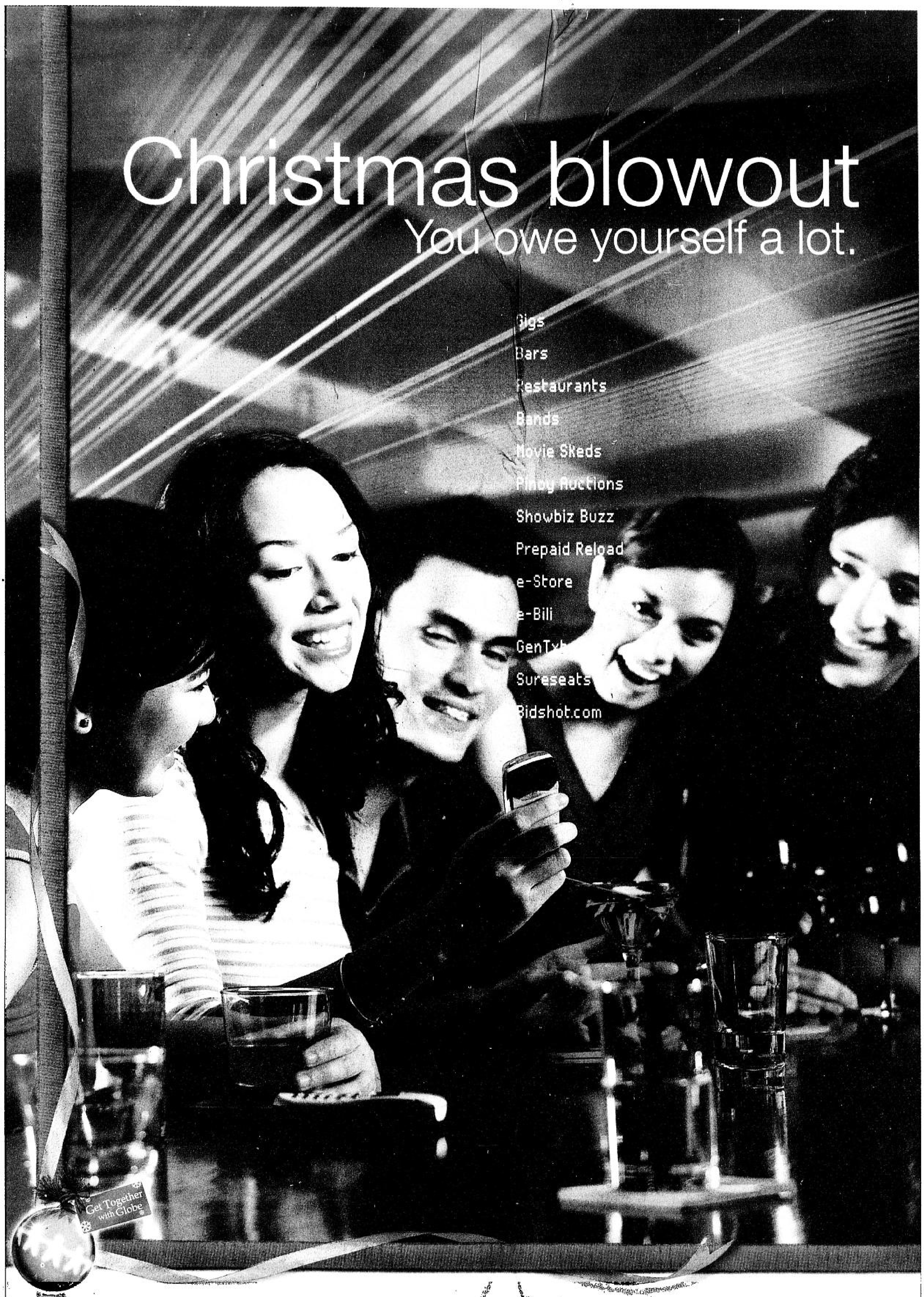
Christmas blowout
You owe yourself a lot.
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It's risky to exercise without warming up and cooling down

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IT is common for many exercise participants to skip the warm-up and cool-down periods of their exercise program because they are in a hurry to get to the "meat" of the workout. If you, like these people, think that warm-ups and cool-downs are just a waste of time, think again. Warming up before exercise and cooling down after are more important than you may realize. In fact, they are paramount in making sure that exercise is safe for your heart.

Dangers of exercising without a warm-up

The human body has a limited volume of blood that has to be distributed to the different body parts depending on need. At rest, 80-85 percent of your blood is concentrated in your stomach, intestine, kidneys, liver, etc. (that's why it isn't a good idea to exercise right after a heavy meal). When you exercise, that blood has to be redistributed to your muscles, which now need more oxygen. According to William Beam, Ph.D. ("Pump Up the Blood Volume," American Fitness Magazine), during heavy exercise, the working muscles receive 10-15 times as much blood flow as they do at rest.

If you don't warm-up and just rush into a strenuous cardiovascular workout, the blood vessels that supply the heart and working

> Dynamic stretches are more effective in preparing the muscles for what is to come in the more vigorous part of the workout

IT'S RISKY/ p.D4

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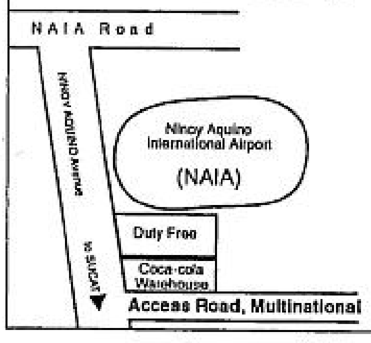

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Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 26,377	P 13,853	P 14,054
48 months	P 30,740	P 16,144	P 16,379
36 months	P 38,134	P 20,027	P 20,318
24 months	P 51,576	P 27,087	P 27,481
18 months	P 66,359	P 34,851	P 35,358
30% downpayment	P 393,000	P 206,400	P 209,400
Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 23,080	P 12,121	P 12,297
48 months	P 26,897	P 14,126	P 14,331
36 months	P 33,367	P 17,524	P 17,778
24 months	P 45,129	P 23,701	P 24,045
18 months	P 58,064	P 30,495	P 30,938
40% downpayment	P 524,000	P 275,200	P 279,200
Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 19,782	P 10,389	P 10,540
48 months	P 23,055	P 12,108	P 12,284
36 months	P 28,600	P 15,020	P 15,239
24 months	P 38,682	P 20,315	P 20,610
18 months	P 49,769	P 26,138	P 26,518

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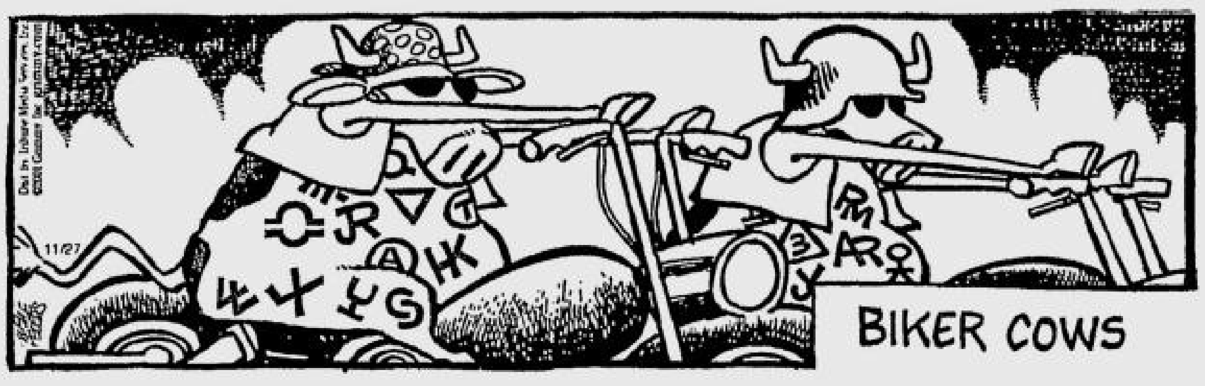
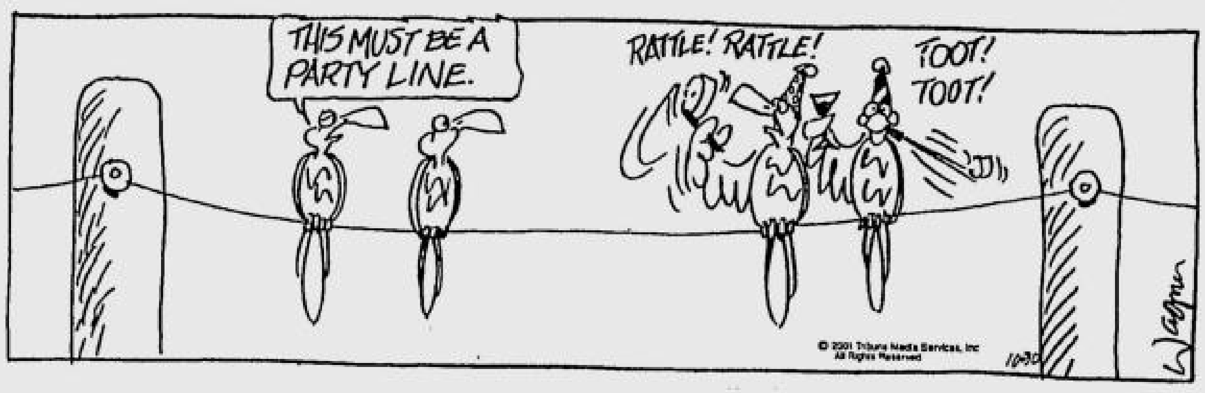
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


11/27
BIKER COWS

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


THIS MUST BE A PARTY LINE.
RATTLE! RATTLE!
TOOT! TOOT!
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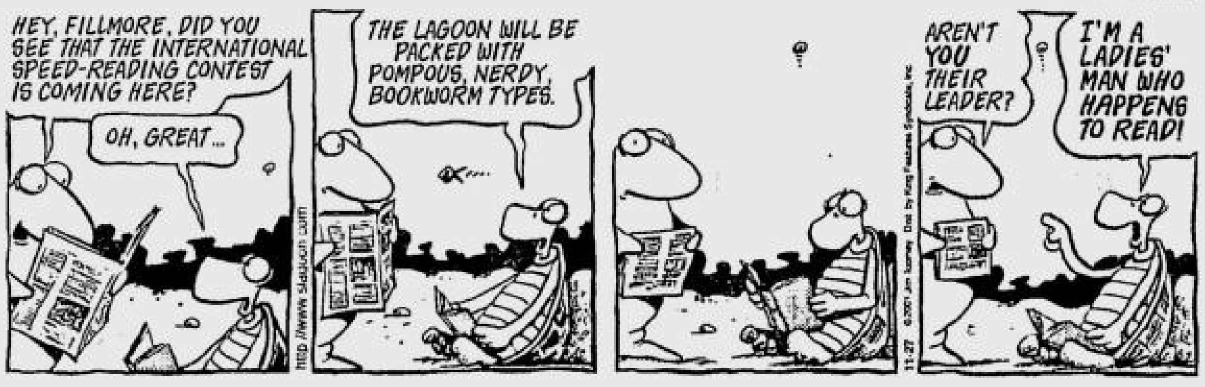
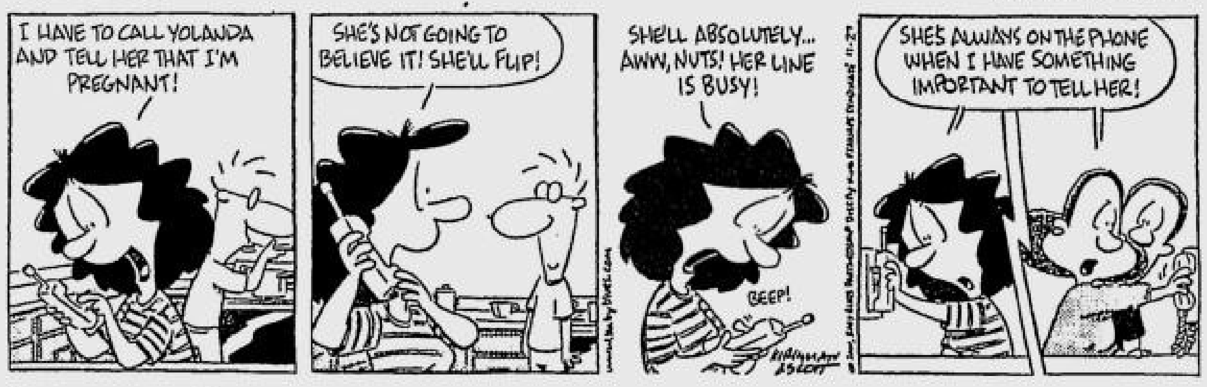
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, FILLMORE, DID YOU SEE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SPEED-READING CONTEST IS COMING HERE?
OH, GREAT...
THE LAGOON WILL BE PACKED WITH POMPOUS, NERDY, BOOKWORM TYPES.
AREN'T YOU THEIR LEADER?
I'M A LADIES' MAN WHO HAPPENS TO READ!
http://www.slagoon.com
11-27

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I HAVE TO CALL YOLANDA AND TELL HER THAT I'M PREGNANT!
SHE'S NOT GOING TO BELIEVE IT! SHE'LL FLIP!
SHE'LL ABSOLUTELY... AWW, NUTS! HER LINE IS BUSY!
BEEP!
SHE'S ALWAYS ON THE PHONE WHEN I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL HER!
KIRKMAN SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Caroline Kennedy, Gail Sheehy, Bill Nye, Fisher Stevens, Curtis Armstrong, Robin Givens

Happy Birthday: You'll have a terrific attitude this year, seeking out excitement and adventure. Not everything will go your way, but you'll bounce back and discover another avenue to your destination. Your charismatic nature will attract others, but be cautious. Double-check your own motives and avoid dubious connections. Your numbers: 9, 12, 14, 21, 25, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): New jobs or projects will spark your enthusiasm. If you run your ideas past superiors, you will surpass the competition and be extremely successful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't worry if you are emotional in expressing your true feelings about issues that have been bothering you. Spend quality time with your lover or family and explain how much you care.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may be withholding vital information or skirting issues. Work alone so that you don't have to rely on anyone else. Listen carefully; a co-worker may try to take credit for your ideas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be shy. If you ask, friends and relatives will offer sound advice and other assistance. You have done plenty for others in the past.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be confident and don't let changes frazzle your nerves. You will come out on top if you are persistent. Believe in your abilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Show interest in your work among people who are in a position to help you. You'll learn something important in seminars or courses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Moneymaking ventures will pay off. Don't be alarmed by delays. Relax and enjoy the break with your favorite activities. You owe it to yourself. Changes at home will turn out well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sudden romantic attractions may be confusing. Take your time and let things develop naturally. Be honest for the best results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Hard work and dedication will pay off, but you may end up with more responsibility. Voice your opinions and work alongside subordinates for optimum results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your competitive nature will lead you in the right direction. You will enjoy sports events with friends and can make professional gains by socializing with clients.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're on a winning streak. Real estate and other investments will bring big returns. Put your hidden assets to work for you. Don't let family members stifle your plans or enthusiasm.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Educational pursuits will lead to a wider range of interests and additional knowledge. New friends who come from different backgrounds will appear if you join in cultural events.

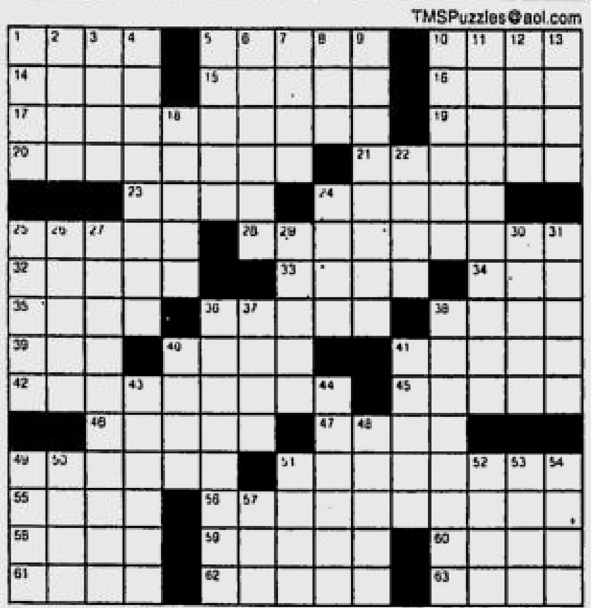
Birthday Baby: You have a creative approach to life and are energetic, outgoing and free-spirited. You are an adventurer with great curiosity and a love of experimenting.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Culture base
5 Burst of energy
10 Duct or lung starter?
14 Rational
15 __ Aconcagua, Argentina
16 "Scarface" star Paul
17 Crop of the Confederacy
19 Semi-eternity?
20 Flight of steps
21 Most proficient
23 Telephone
24 Pool outlet
25 Cheech of "Nash Bridges"
28 "Your Show of Shows" co-star
32 Palace or castle, e.g.
33 Comic Mort
34 Singer Sayer
35 Actress Martha
36 "Henry V" and "Richard III"
38 Heat up
39 Mom-&-pop store grp.
40 Type of code
41 Excessive enthusiasm
42 Broadway musical producer
45 "As You Like It" forest
46 Feeble
47 Loamy fertilizer
49 Turkish cap
51 Jar loose
55 Jai __
56 Chief Justice (1953-69)
58 Got up
59 Actress Braga
60 De Laurentiis or Buzzati
61 German river
62 "Six O'clock" painter John
63 Bath and Ems

DOWN
1 Inquires
2 Way of moving
3 "__ and the King"
4 Crime in "Hamlet"
5 Angry frown
6 Flower parts
7 Pretentiously creative
8 Full-house sign
9 Milkweed butterflies
10 Charlotte __, V.I.
11 Brisbane's state
12 __ cuantos (a few)
13 "__ She Sweet"
18 Hart or Stephen
22 Jezebel's deity
24 6/6/44
25 Wetlands
26 Addis __, Eth.
27 Malcolm McDowell movie
29 Writer Babel
30 Cliff dwelling?
31 Latin speaker
36 Rob Reiner's "The __ Bride"
37 Fasting period
38 Regional rulers
40 Opera highlight
41 Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"
43 __-mache
44 __-Romagna
48 Nile dam
49 Vocalist Vikki
50 Ballplayer Moises
51 Connery movie
52 Plumbing problem
53 Actress Rowlands
54 Son of Seth
57 Leading ISP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By James E. Hinish
Williamsburg, VA

10/12/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

V	O	T	E	S	■	P	O	M	P	■	A	C	I	D
O	N	E	A	L	■	O	L	I	O	■	L	O	G	E
S	T	A	T	I	S	T	I	C	S	■	A	G	U	E
S	O	S	■	P	L	A	N	E	T	S	■	N	A	P
■	■	P	A	P	A	S	■	■	■	T	H	A	N	E
P	R	O	V	E	T	H	A	T	Y	O	U	C	A	N
C	O	O	E	D	■	■	L	O	U	P	E	■	■	■
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■	■	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	■	P	E	D	A	L
P	R	O	V	E	A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G	B	Y
L	I	B	Y	A	■	■	■	R	A	N	G	E	■	■
A	P	T	■	R	E	S	P	I	R	E	■	W	E	E
S	P	U	N	■	S	T	A	T	I	S	T	I	C	S
M	E	S	A	■	T	O	R	O	■	A	R	S	O	N
A	D	E	N	■	E	A	R	N	■	P	E	E	L	E

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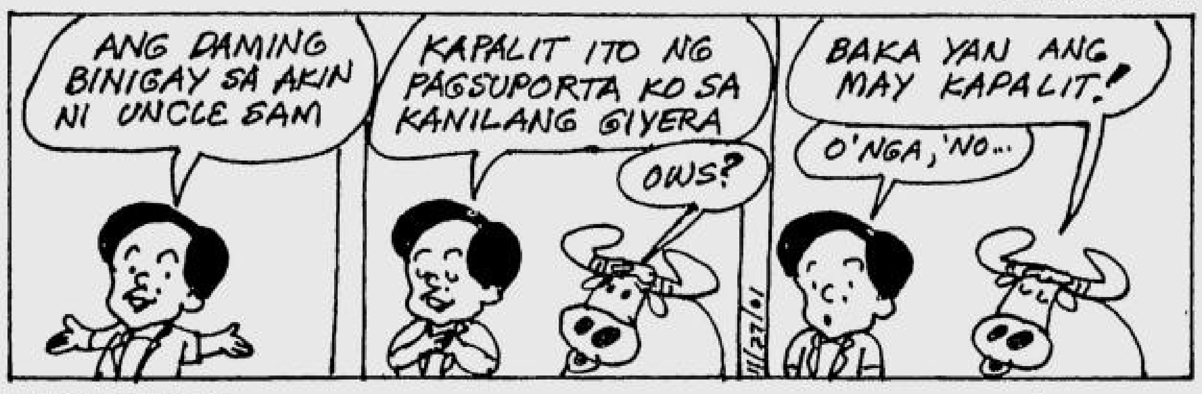
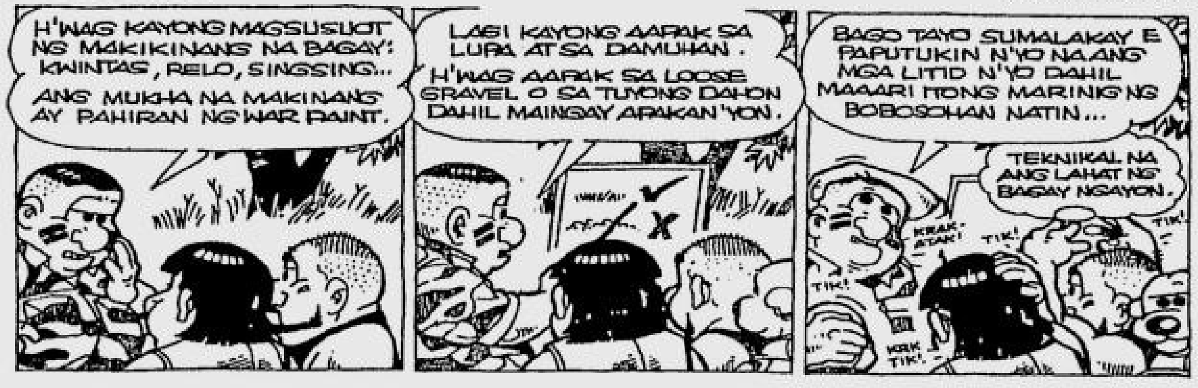
10/12/01

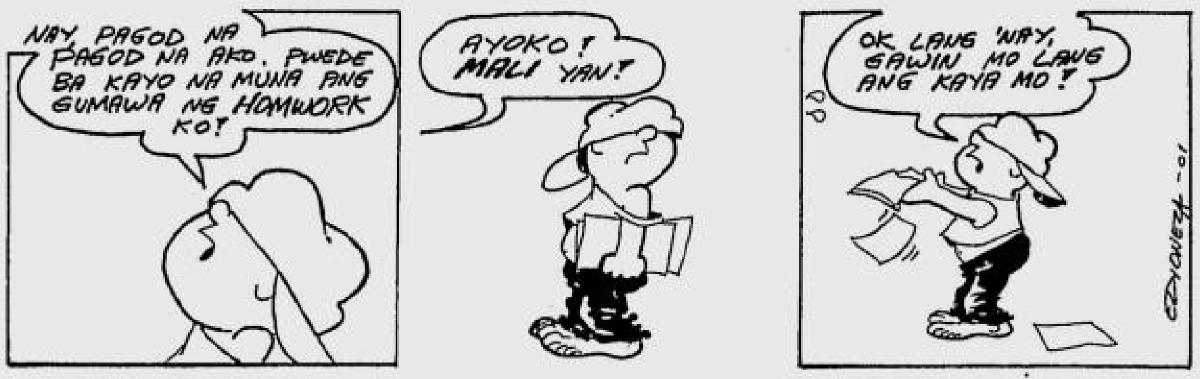
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMING BINIGAY SA AKIN NI UNCLE SAM
KAPALIT ITO NG PAGSUPORTA KO SA KANILANG GIYERA
OWS?
11/27/01
BAKA YAN ANG MAY KAPALIT!
O'NGA, 'NO...

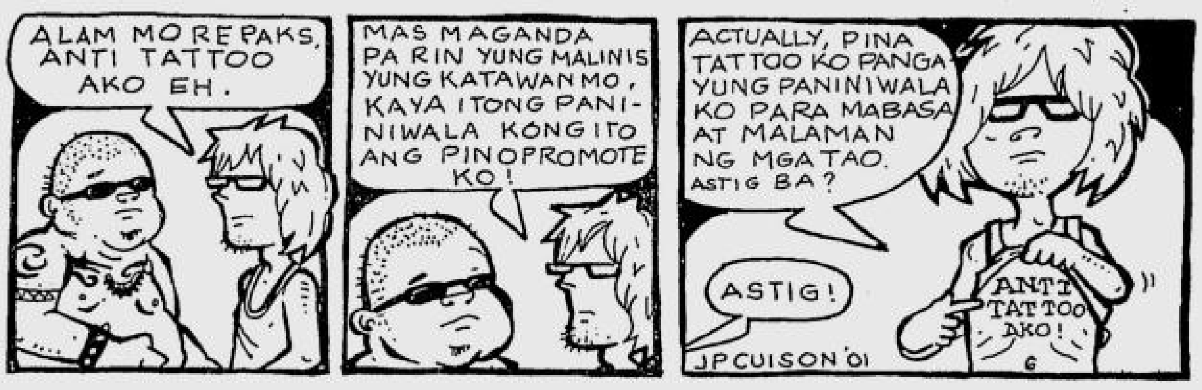
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


H'WAG KAYONG MAGSUSUOT NG MAKIKINANG NA BAGAY: KWINTAS, RELO, SINGSING... ANG MUKHA NA MAKINANG AY PAHIRAN NG WAR PAINT.
LAGI KAYONG AAPAK SA LUPA AT SA DAMUHAN. H'WAG AAPAK SA LOOSE GRAVEL O SA TUYONG DAHON DAHIL MAINGAY APAKAN 'YON.
BAGO TAYO SUMALAKAY E PAPUTUKIN N'YO NA ANG MGA LITID N'YO DAHIL MAAARI ITONG MARINIG NG BOBOSOHAN NATIN...
TEKNIKAL NA ANG LAHAT NG BAGAY NGAYON.
KRAK-ATAK!
TIK!
KRAK
TIK!

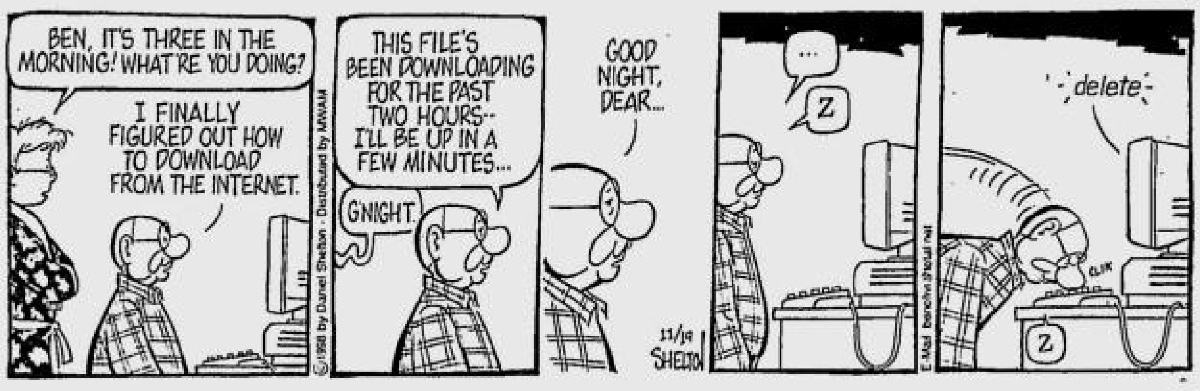
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, PAGOD NA PAGOD NA AKO. PWEDE BA KAYO NA MUNA ANG GUMAWA NG HOMWORK KO?
AYOKO! MALI YAN!
OK LANG 'NAY, GAWIN MO LANG ANG KAYA MO!
DIONELA -01

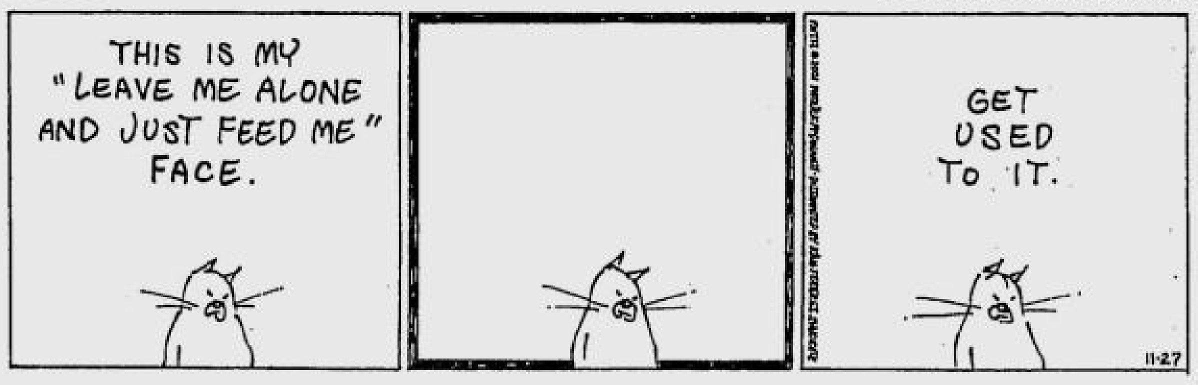
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


ALAM MO REPAKS, ANTI TATTOO AKO EH.
MAS MAGANDA PA RIN YUNG MALINIS YUNG KATAWAN MO, KAYA ITONG PANINIWALA KONG ITO ANG PINOPROMOTE KO!
ACTUALLY, PINA TATTOO KO PANGA YUNG PANINIWALA KO PARA MABASA AT MALAMAN NG MGA TAO. ASTIG BA?
ASTIG!
ANTI TATTOO AKO!
JP CUISON '01

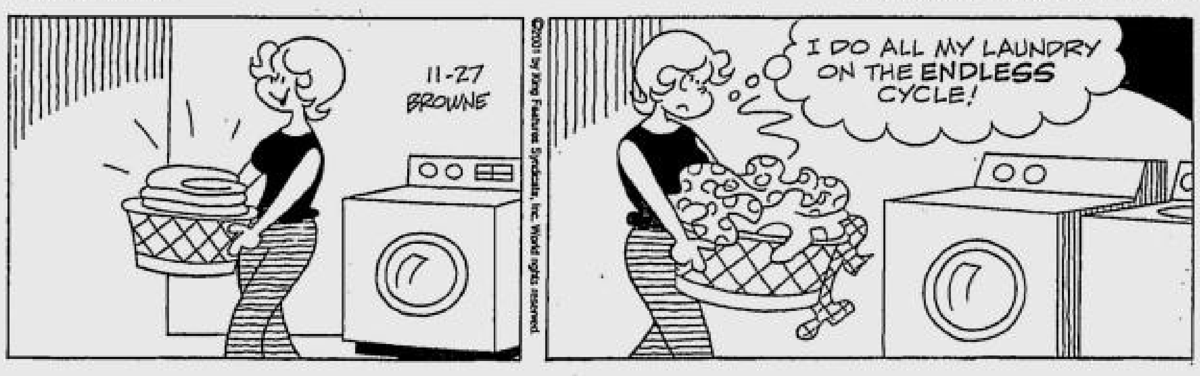
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, IT'S THREE IN THE MORNING! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I FINALLY FIGURED OUT HOW TO DOWNLOAD FROM THE INTERNET.
THIS FILE'S BEEN DOWNLOADING FOR THE PAST TWO HOURS-- I'LL BE UP IN A FEW MINUTES...
G'NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT, DEAR...
11/19 SHELTON
...
Z
delete
CLIK
Z

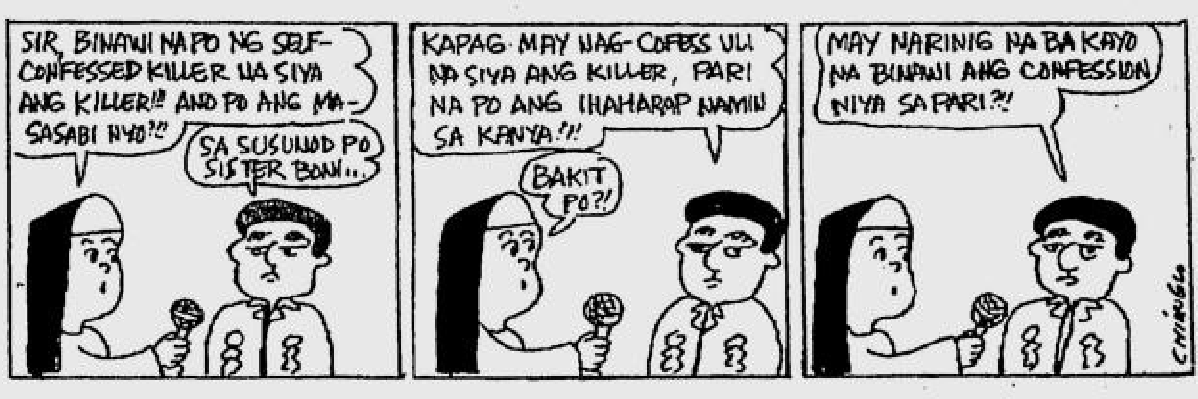
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "LEAVE ME ALONE AND JUST FEED ME" FACE.
GET USED TO IT.
11-27

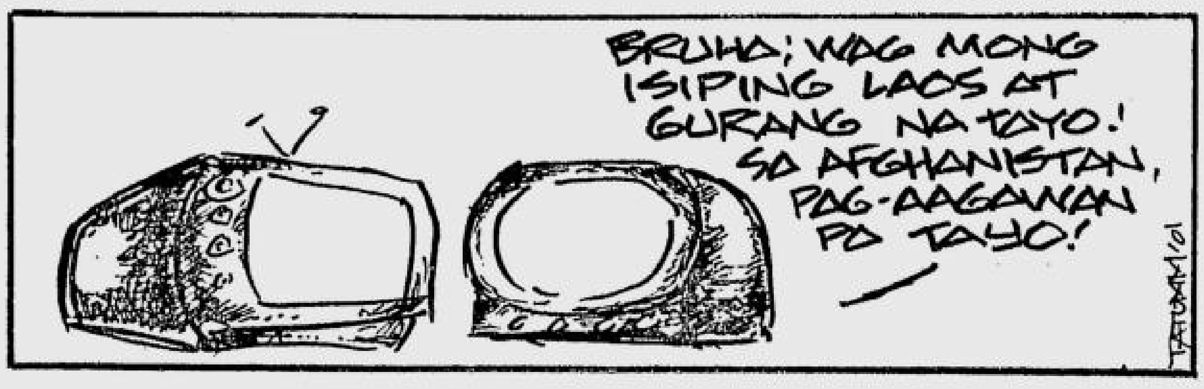
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


11-27 BROWNE
I DO ALL MY LAUNDRY ON THE ENDLESS CYCLE!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIR, BINAWI NA PO NG SELF-CONFESSED KILLER NA SIYA ANG KILLER!! ANO PO ANG MASASABI NYO?!!
SA SUSUNOD PO SISTER BONI...
KAPAG MAY NAG-COFESS ULI NA SIYA ANG KILLER, PARI NA PO ANG IHAHARAP NAMIN SA KANYA!?!
BAKIT PO?!
MAY NARINIG NA BA KAYO NA BINAWI ANG CONFESSION NIYA SA PARI?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BRUHA; WAG MONG ISIPING LAOS AT GURANG NA TAYO! SA AFGHANISTAN, PAG-AAGAWAN PO TAYO!
TATUM '01

How to attract good luck

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

EVERY now and then I receive letters from readers telling me how unlucky they are in life. Everything they do seems to go wrong. Every business or investment decision they make turns out bad, and even their relationships become sour. A few of them have even thought of commuting suicide as a last resort.

All of them inevitably ask the question, why these negative things happen to them and if there is anything they can do about the situation.

Since I believe that everything that exists on the physical plane has its origin on the mental and spiritual planes, the only way to change our physical circumstances is to change our mentality. Convert negative thoughts and self-image to positive ones. But this is easier said than done. Is there a technique or method on how to do this?

Fortunately, there is a way out of this dilemma. I came across an excellent book published many years ago which tells exactly "How to Attract Good Luck" (that's the title of the book) written by A.H.Z. Carr.

The author makes a distinction between "chance" and "luck." Although closely related, they're not the same. He defines chance as a random, impersonal event, like lightning striking a tree, or a volcano erupting at a certain time, or cloud forming into a face of a bear, etc. These are events we cannot specifically predict.

But when chance touches the interests of an individual, then it becomes very personal and significant for him/her. "As soon as human emotions are affected by chance, it has been transformed into luck," says the author. He gives the following example to explain his point:

"The wind blows a piece of paper across our path. We see it flutter in the distance, and we walk past, our minds in other matters. The paper has been set in motion by forces we cannot control. It does not concern us. It has merely reached a given point simultaneously with ourselves, and the result is unpredictable chance—one of the myriad number of tiny, fortuitous events that befall everyone in the course of a day.

"Suppose, however, that as the piece of paper flutters by we follow it with our eyes, stop and discover that it is money—a 10-dollar bill. At once the chance takes on a new character. It affects us, gives rise to an emotion, a warming glow of satisfaction. The impersonal ties become personal. Chance has become luck!"

Why do some people have a consistently large dose of bad luck? While others seem to be so lucky everything they touch turns to gold?

According to the author, "Psychologists have found that the unlucky person, more often than not, is one whose behavior reflects profound insecurities of mind and spirit. It is psychological insecurity (present to some degree in most of us) that normally prevents us from responding successfully to the chances of life."

How to reverse bad luck

- Seize the moment of one good chance or opportunity occurring among a series of negative events. The author gave the example of a new widow, whose late husband left an insurance but failed to remit the last premium, and therefore the company withheld payment. She was dealing only with subordinates of the company so far. She needed the money badly. The husband left her with two small children. She tried again to collect. Going to the office, she found the secretary of the manager gone. She seized the moment, went to the office of the manager, presented her case and was given a favorable decision for humanitarian reasons. Not only that, the manager fell in love with her and married her. They lived happily ever after, just like in the romantic novels.

"At the heart of this process," according to the author, "lies the vigorous assertion at the right moment of certain outstanding and positive characteristics."

- Be alert to chance meetings or chance remarks, whether from strangers or some other unexpected sources. Let me give you a personal example. I was having my hair cut by my longtime barber one day. I said I just came to visit a friend, a personnel manager of a new international hotel about to open in Manila. I told him the hotel was then hurriedly recruiting new personnel. He immediately called up his son and told him to get an application form. He had been looking for a job without much success. The son went there, filled out the form, was interviewed and was immediately hired, starting at the lowest level. Several years later, I went back to that same barber and he told me his son had been promoted as manager of a newly opened branch in Hawaii. By acting on that chance remark I made, the barber turned that into good luck for his son.

- Be generous. Genuine generosity attracts good luck. Why? Because "generosity tends to evolve a similar feeling in the hearts of beholders," according to the author. "Your warm-spirited actions intensify and sustain awareness of you in the minds of others. And the concentrated favorable attention of others increases the probability that they will remember a fact or conceive an idea beneficial to your interests."

This does not mean that the sole motive you should have for being generous is to get something in return. That won't work. The real reward of one's generosity is often invisible and secret. "The generous person creates an unsuspected potential of good luck that needs only a touch from chance to burst all at once into happy reality," says the author.

- Know what you really want. "The more we know exactly what we really want in life, the better prepared we will be to recognize favorable chances and extract good luck from them." Unfortunately, most of us do not really know what we want in life. So we don't get it.

- Develop your intuition. Intuition can be developed just like any other mental ability. Exposure to varied circumstances of life, openness to experience, willingness to take risks and regular meditation can develop one's intuition. Practice makes perfect.

Sometimes known as gut feelings, intuition can take on many forms. Sometimes it comes through dreams, chance meetings or when we are not paying attention to it. Intuition is allowing our right, spontaneous side of the brain to dominate. It is suspending our left, analytical brain for a while. It is the ability to listen to the sound of silence in our minds that speak out loud. Such contradictions are the essence of intuition. And when you have gotten a truly intuitive insight into a situation, you know absolutely that you are right. There's a great feeling of internal joy at having arrived at a good insight or good decision. Intuition plays a very great role in bringing about good luck.

Have you observed some people who always do or say the right things at the right time? They are always there at the exact moment they are needed, when something really momentous will happen. How do they know? They have developed their intuition. They just know, period. That's intuition.

In conclusion, the author pointed out: "Even if we are not ourselves naturally lucky, we can at least bring more luck into our lives than we have had. The extent to which we make ourselves luckier is likely to be directly proportional to the force of our will to be lucky.

"By doing a few relatively simple things over a period of a few months, men can often develop the lucky side of their personalities to an extent that seems miraculous. With a normal play of chance, an increase in one's potential luck does not take long to show itself in greater happiness."

Good luck!

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Lupus symposium set at UST

THE LUPUS Foundation of the Phils. will hold its second lupus symposium and 7th annual get-together on Dec. 1 at the UST Medicine Building.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Invited speakers are Dr. Antonio Cayco, who will talk about lupus and kidneys; Dr. Jaime Montoya, "Infections in Lupus"; and Dr. Eleonor Lo-Letran, "Lupus and the Skin." An open forum and breakout sessions will follow after the lecture. Dr. Ditas Decena will handle the group who will attend the session on FAQs on "Lupus and Women's Concerns," while Dr. Julie Li-Yu will tackle the subject of "Lupus in Children." "Coping Strategies for Caregivers" will be handled by Teddy Dizon, while Dr. Innocencio Alejandro will expound on "Male Lupus."

After the symposium, lupus patients will gather at the 7/F Medical Arts Building for the annual get-together. A program will be held and gifts will be distributed.

In December 1994, with roughly 700 known lupus patients nationwide, doctors and lupus patients organized the Lupus Foundation to enhance public awareness of the disease and to provide education, moral and spiritual support to patients and caregivers as well.

Presently, there are over 2,000 known lupus cases in the country.

MANILA'S newest one-stop slimming and beauty destination, Weigh Less Center & Spa, recently held its inauguration party with a mini concert featuring Free Verse. From left, Dr. Joel Mendez, owner and weight management expert; Elaiza Siducon, marketing officer; and Janice de Belen, celebrity endorser with members of the Free Verse Band. Weigh Less Center & Spa is on Roces Avenue, QC. Visit Weigh Less Center Binondo at 498 San Fernando St., Binondo, Manila or Weigh Less Center at 2/F O.Y.G. Building, 212 B. Mendoza St., San Fernando, Pampanga.

Skin care line targets Asian women

WEEKLY DOSAGE

THE MITSUKO Ivoire Collection by Aia-Hinoki is a selection of fine cosmetics and other products that represents a "return to romance." Presented in elegantly designed mint green packaging, it is a complete line of beauty essentials—lip makeup, eye colors, blusher, pressed powder, roll-on deodorant, cologne spray and roll-on perfume.

Just like other Aia-Hinoki brands, the Mitsuko Ivoire Collection is a product of the blending of Filipino and Japanese expertise in cosmetics technology and direct selling. From the very beginning, Aia had been in partnership with Inoki of Japan, one of the world's leading manufacturer of skin-care products since 1954.

The Mitsuko Ivoire Collection was created not only to provide the female market more choices from Aia-Hinoki's wide array of products but also to enhance the distinct beauty and appeal of the Filipino woman and give her the sense of confidence as she goes on with her life and career.

With Asian market as target, the Mitsuko Ivoire Collectino and other Aia-Hinoki products were formulated to perfectly suit the women's skin type and color.

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CANCER BOOK. One-hundred survivors from cancer worldwide reveal their bouts against the dreaded disease in the revised edition of Chinese cancer expert Wang Zhen Guo's latest book titled "The Cancer Terminator—100 Live Stories of 100 Cancer Sufferers."

Among the cancer patients who gave their testimonials in the said book are Edith Shih, from San Francisco, California; Chen Yueyun from Malaysia; Fred Walltic from the USA; Kawada Hiroshima from Japan; Ma Meiyu from Thailand; Zhou Yuzhen from Taiwan; Ding Suk Ying from Hong Kong; Wan Rsbiatul, from Malacca; Lady Shimitsu from Japan; and Yeung Ching Wan from Hong Kong. It is important to fight cancer with a balanced diet, avoiding certain foods, which may contribute in leading to cancer.

The patients' testimonials narrate their survival stories against different kinds of cancer, including those on the uterus, breasts, lungs, liver, thyroid gland, stomach, intestines, prostate glands, malignant lymph tumor, bones, skin, prostate, nose and the esophagus. Copies of "The Cancer Terminator" are now available at their office at 307 Solmac Building, 84 Dapitan St. corner Banawe St., QC. Call 415-8714, 781-0069/9370.

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Gary Valenciano
RADICAL

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

All fours back leg lift

THIS yoga- and Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens and tones the buttocks and hamstrings. The advanced version also challenges the chest, triceps (back of the arms) and abdominals (as stabilizing muscles).

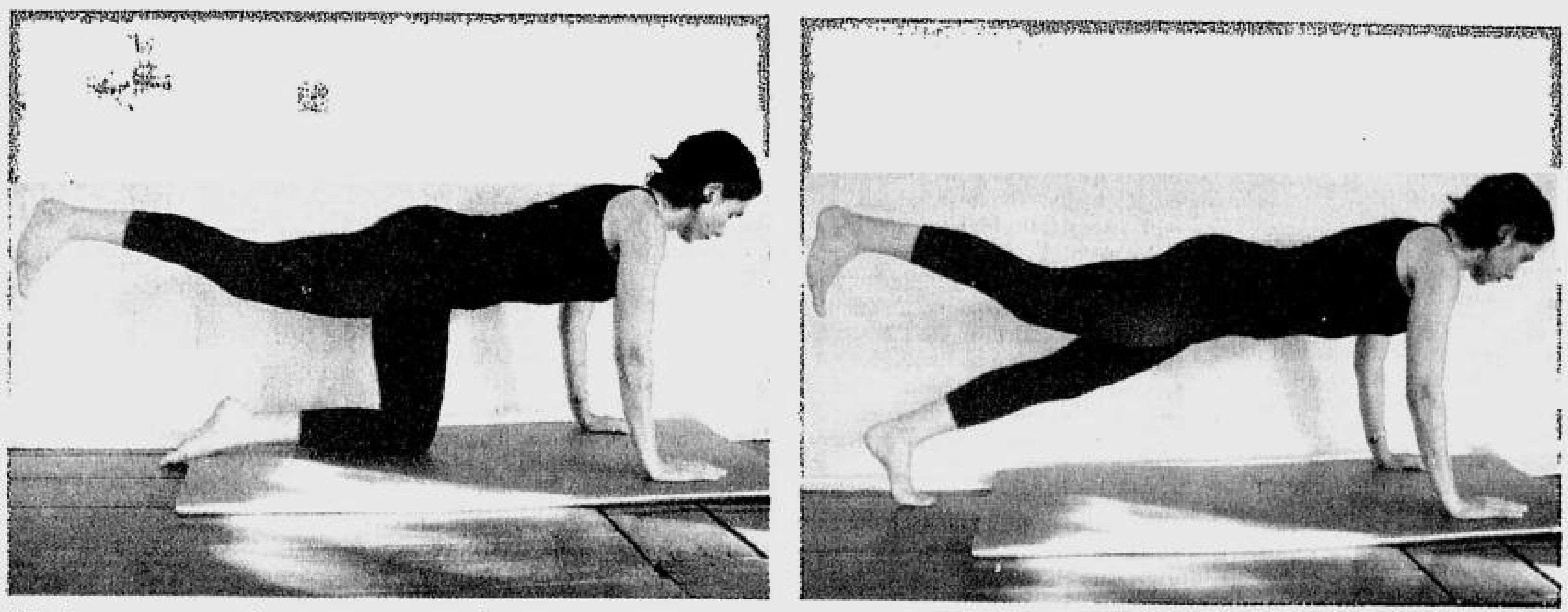
Equipment:
Exercise mat.

Exercise technique:

1. Easier version: Get on your hands and knees. Make sure your arms are directly under your shoulders and your knees are hip-width apart.

2. Advanced version: Get into a plank or push-up position. Arms are directly under shoulders but keep legs just slightly apart or together for a greater challenge to balance.

3. Extend one leg behind with the feet flexed and the heel facing the ceiling.



4. Inhale as you lift the leg with the heel leading the way.

5. Exhale as you lower the leg.

6. Do the desired number of repetitions. Rest. Do the other leg.

Performance tips:

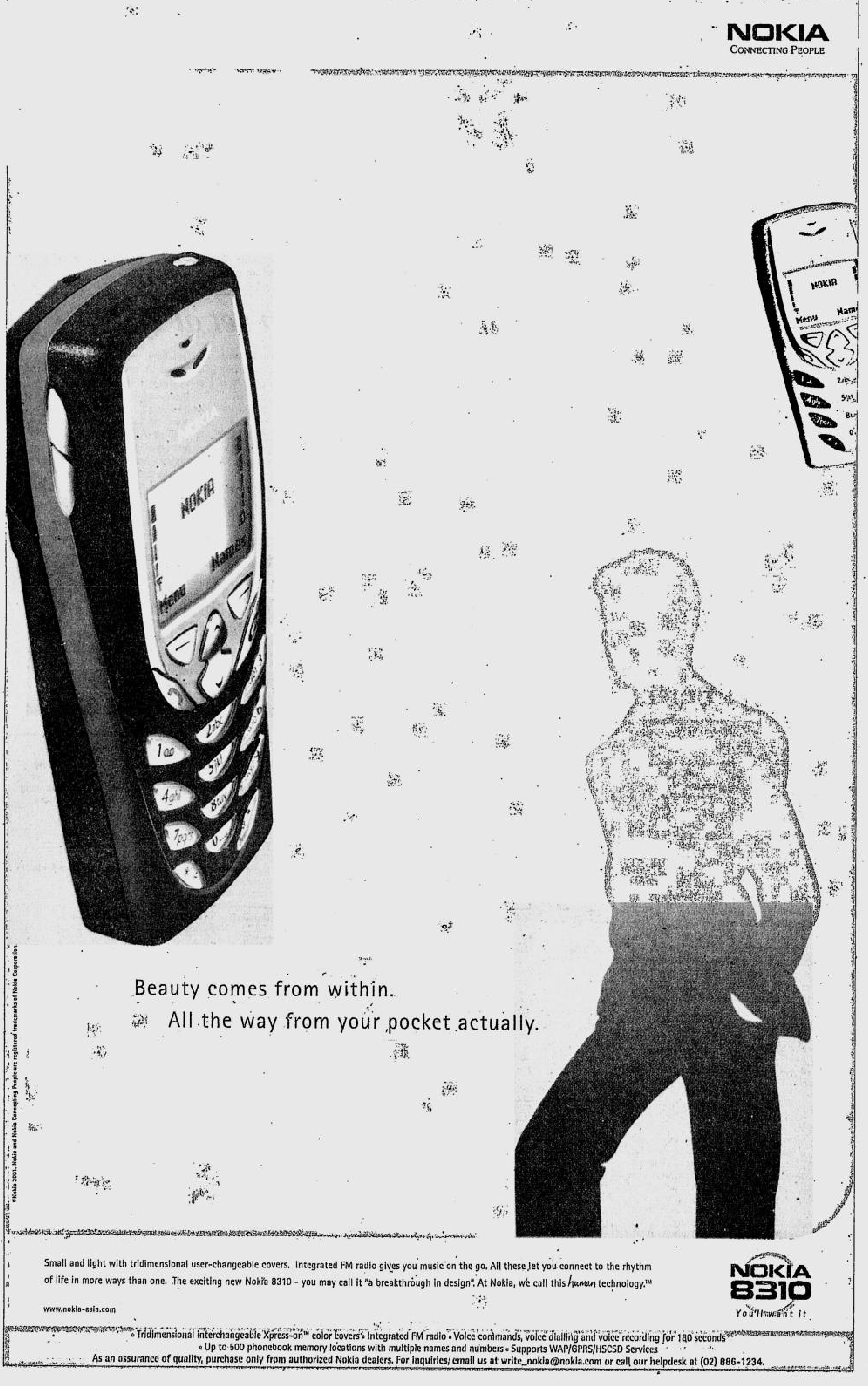
1. Keep belly button pulled in toward spine to prevent the back from sagging.

2. Keep neck aligned with spine. Do not allow head to arch upward or drop downward.

3. Keep hips level instead of allowing one hip to tilt sideways as you lift your leg behind you.

4. Lift the leg only up to hip level to keep correct alignment in the spine.

Repetitions:
Ten repetitions per leg.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It's risky . . .

(From page D1)

muscles don't have enough time to dilate properly. This can result in a sudden rapid rise in pressure in the blood vessels. While this is not good for healthy people, it can be really dangerous for someone who already has high blood pressure at rest.

Not only that, since the flow of blood is restricted, there is an inadequate supply of oxygen to the muscles that need it, including the muscles of the heart. Chest pain, heart damage or muscle pain can be a result.

Aside from rapid increase in blood pressure and heart rate, exercising without a warm-up can cause arrhythmia (abnormal heart rhythms), early fatigue, potential muscle strains ("cold" muscles are more prone to injury than muscles that have been warmed up) and joint injury (synovial fluid, a joint lubricant, is less "sticky" when body temperature is slightly raised).

Dangers of exercising without a cool-down

During exercise your heart and the muscles in your legs act as partner-pumps in keeping your blood flowing efficiently between your upper and lower body. Every time you contract your leg muscles, the veins in those muscles are squeezed and the blood is pushed upward to the heart. Therefore, continuous rhythmic movement in the legs right after exercise is critical. If you stand or sit down without moving for a long time, the leg muscles can no longer act as pumps. The blood will have a hard time returning to the heart and will "pool" in your legs. Your brain will be denied the oxygen it needs and you can faint. Fainting will get you flat on your back, your brain will get the blood it needs and you will revive.

However, this is no laughing matter because, aside from scaring your fitness instructor or partners half to death, you cannot guarantee where your head will land when you faint. It would be wiser altogether to avoid standing still or sitting down right after vigorous exercise. Beam explains that low intensity movement in your legs will allow for a safe gradual reduction in heart rate and blood pressure until they reach your normal resting levels.

Guidelines for a proper warm-up

- It should consist of 5-10 minutes of low intensity movement, if possible, similar to what you are going to do in the more strenuous part of the exercise.
- According to Len Kravitz, Ph.D. ("Warm-up Techniques," Idea Health and Fitness Source Magazine), there are two types of warm-up: general and specific. The general warm-up consists of active movements of the major muscle groups that are not necessarily related to the movements that follow. An example would be simple calisthenics as a warm-up to lifting weights. Kravitz says a specific warm-up would consist of carefully chosen movements that rehearse the body for the moves to follow. For example, when I teach "cardio kickboxing," I use low intensity kicking and boxing moves as my specific warm-up.
- The more intense the workout, the longer the warm-up. I use a 15-minute warm-up for my kickboxing class compared to only 10 minutes for my step or high-low impact aerobics classes because the kickboxing class is, by far, more strenuous.
- The older and more unfit the exercise participants the longer the warm-up.
- The warm-up should be intense enough to raise body temperature but not intense enough to fatigue you. After all, you want to warm-up, not get worn out!
- Many fitness experts now suggest gentle full-range-of-motion movements to actively and dynamically stretch the muscles during the warm-up instead of the more traditional static stretches that are held without moving for about 10 seconds. An example of a dynamic stretch would be to point and flex the foot repeatedly to stretch the shins and calves. The experts feel that dynamic stretches are more effective in preparing the muscles for what is to come in the more vigorous part of the workout. Besides the warm-up is not the appropriate time to increase flexibility with deep stretches since the muscles are not that warm yet.
- The warm-up can be used as a rehearsal to practice dance, sports or aerobic class combinations. These combinations should be practiced at "half time" or a considerably slower speed to avoid raising the heart rate too rapidly.

Guidelines for a proper cool-down

- Two to 5 minutes of low intensity movement. Older and unfit individuals may need a longer time.
- Wait until the heart rate has gone down to 120 beats a minute or lower before sitting or lying down.
- Since body temperature stays elevated for some time after exercise, doing sustained static stretching after the cool-down is a more appropriate and effective time to increase flexibility.

As you can see, it is a risky business to exercise without warming up or cooling down. It's just not worth it to skip these important components of your fitness program simply because you are impatient or in a hurry.

For questions or past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

(This column is a reprint of a past column. Ms Juan is currently on leave.)